BIHAR

IN

1938-39

BY

S. M. WASI,
Director of Publicity.

SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING,
BIHAR, PATNA.
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[Price—Re. 1.]

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NOTICE.

The task of preparing this book was entrusted to Mr. S. M. Wasi, Director of Publicity, and it is now published under authority and with the general approval of the Provincial Government, but it must not be assumed that the approval extends to every particular expression of opinion.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS volume deals with the financial year 1938-39, namely from the 1st April 1938 to the 31st March 1939. Besides reviewing the second year of the working of Provincial Autonomy and the activities of the various Departments, it surveys some of the more important subsequent administrative and legislative measures of Government.

CONTENTS.

APPENDIX I.

LIST OF DIAGRAMS.

DIAGRAMS.

CHAPTER CONTENTS.

CHAPTER V—concld.

CHAPTER VI.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RELIEF.

CHAPTER VII.

MAINTENANCE OF PEACE, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND JAILS.

CHAPTER VIII.

EXCISE.

CHAPTER IX.

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE.

CHAPTER X.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND CO-OPERATION.

CHAPTER X—concld.

CHAPTER XI.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

CHAPTER I.

Political And General Events.

The year saw the completion of another eventful year of Provincial Autonomy. The Congress Ministry had settled down to carry out their constructive programme.

Another Year Of Provincial Autonomy.

Some of the important committees appointed by Government for investigating into and reporting upon different problems had finished their labours and submitted their reports. The recommendations of the Santal Parganas Enquiry Committee were being implemented and, as a first instalment, Government sanctioned the introduction of regular police in Dumka and Jamtara with one police-station at each of the places for the present. The recommendations of the Corruption Enquiry Committee, presided over by Mr. Syed Abdul Aziz, were under examination in the various departments with a view to give effect to them wherever possible. Certain general recommendations of the Committee were accepted in advance and Government announced their decision to give effect to them immediately. The committee appointed to prepare a practical scheme for the separation of executive and judicial functions submitted an *ad interim* report.

The committee appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad to investigate the conditions of labour made good progress with its work. It recorded much useful evidence at Jamalpur, Monghyr, Dehri and Japla.

It was decided to reinstate, as far as it was practicable to do so, persons who resigned or were dismissed or discharged from Government service for political reasons during the various Civil Disobedience Movements. The reinstatement was to be made subject to certain conditions laid down by Government.

Government ordered that such parts of police uniforms as caps, shirts and *pugris* should be made of *khadi* and sanctioned Rs. 50,000 an extra cost for the purpose.

Orders were also issued recognising those examinations of the National Universities which correspond to the Matriculation examination of the Patna University for the purpose of franchise.

It was also decided to recognise the diplomas, certificates and the degrees of the National Universities, granted up to the 1st January 1939, for the purpose of Government service.

Congress Politics.

The congress presidential election early in the year, which resulted in the return of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose for the second time in succession, gave rise to prolonged controversy between Mr. Bose and the Right Wing Leaders.

Immediately after this election Mr. Bose attended the Political Conference at Chauram in the Gaya district, sponsored mostly by the Left Wingers.

There was a trial of strength between the Right Wing and Kisan Sabhites and Leftists over the congress elections in the districts. The latter failed in their effort to oust the orthodox congress party except in Gaya, where the District Congress Committee passed into the hands of the Socialists and the Kisan Sabhites.

'Independence Day' produced a crop of incidents arising out of flag-hoisting ceremonies. Most of these incidents took place between students at schools or colleges. The only place where serious trouble occurred was Gaya, where a quarrel over the hoisting of flags between Hindu and Muslim students of the City High English School developed into a free fight and later the contagion spread throughout the town leading to stray clashes and assaults, 51 persons receiving injuries.

In order that there should be no more unseemly quarrels between students in educational institutions over the hoisting of flags and singing of Bande Matram, the Ministry announced the general lines of their policy in the matter. It laid down that the singing of Bande Matram should be optional and be limited to the first two verses which were regarded as non-controversial and that flags should only be flown on schools where there was complete unanimity.

Kisan And Other Political Movements.

Government's efforts through legislation to improve the economic condition of the peasantry both in respect of level of rents and tenure of bakasht lands were handicapped to a certain extent by the activities of the Kisan Sabha, particularly in Gaya and some other districts. The storm centres were Reora in Gaya, the Barahya Tal in Monghyr and Patna and Amwari in Saran. The Reora trouble led to a new form of lawlessness when,

following the arrest of Pandit Jadunandan Sharma, large numbers of Kisan demonstrators boarded trains for Gaya without tickets.

The unrest among the agricultural population in many parts of Bihar which had been developing for some years and had culminated in an extensive agitation organised mainly by the Kisan Sabha springs from a number of causes. The economic depression of the last ten years, coupled with the high pitch of rents in certain parts of the province which had resulted in the selling up of many holdings for arrears of rent, the consequent accumulation of large areas of land in the hands of zemindars, the large increase in the number of landless labourers, neglect in some cases, by the landlords of irrigation works, petty oppressions by zemindari amla, the growth of political consciousness and other factors had all contributed to the spread of a feeling of discontent. This discontent centred mainly round the land generally known as bakasht malik, i.e., land once raiyati but now in possession of the landlord.

The Congress Ministry and their predecessors in office had devoted anxious consideration to this problem. Government had examined the law and enacted fresh legislation in an endeavour to secure to the cultivators redress for their grievances. Legislation had been passed for the reduction of rents and this was rapidly being carried into execution all over the province. They had passed a Money-lenders' Act aimed at improving materially the position of agricultural debtors. They had passed an Act to secure the restoration of raiyati holdings which were sold up for rent during the period of depression between 1929 and 1937 and they hoped that this Act, which was now being put into operation, would result in restoration to the raiyats of many of their holdings. But in passing that Act they have had to take into consideration also the legitimate rights of the landlords and they had, therefore, found it necessary both to provide that part of the arrears of rent on such holdings should be paid up as a condition of re-settlement and also that holdings which had since been re-settled with other tenants must be excluded from the scope of the Act. It is recognised that the cultivator often finds it difficult to prove his claim even where it is just, because the conditions under which bakasht land is let out by the landlord make it impossible for him to produce documents and in the absence of reliable oral evidence on either side, the courts have, in the past, been compelled to decide cases mainly on documentary evidence. But Government had, for some time past, encouraged their officers to endeavour to settle these disputes by means other than a regular suit or

proceeding under section 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code. They had encouraged them to resort more freely to local enquiries, to arbitration and conciliation and they believed that with good-will on both sides, it was possible to settle in a reasonable manner nearly all genuine bakasht disputes.

The Provincial Kisan Conference was held at Waini (Darbhanga). The lengthy agenda included 29 resolutions, the most important being one urging the launching of Satyagraha as a weapon for attaining their ends.

A summer school of politics was held at Sonepur in May and June 1938 which attracted many Left-wing leaders of All-India repute. The organisers claimed that it was a great success and the Kisan Sabha leaders held similar winter schools of politics at Deo in Gaya district and Bhutahi in Muzaffarpur. The Congress Socialist leaders took a prominent part in the affairs of the Students' Federation which formed branches in many districts. It was opposed for a time at Patna by a rival students' organisation, formed by the followers of Mr. M. N. Roy.

The Adibasi Sabha Movement became active in Ranchi district from the middle of 1938, and in January 1939 Mr. Jaipal Singh presided over two important conferences where resolutions were passed demanding the separation of Chota Nagpur from Bihar. Later he concentrated on organising work at Ranchi and Jamshedpur. The separation move was opposed by Sanatan Adibasis, while the main body of Christian aborigines had also been concentrating more upon a redress of their grievances than upon separation of Chota Nagpur. The practical impossibility of separation was demonstrated by the Prime Minister in the course of a debate on this question in the Bihar Legislative Council (Upper House). The Ministry by their stay in Ranchi and extensive tour of Chota Nagpur came in contact with the aborigines and made efforts to remove their grievances and undertook special measures for their benefit and welfare.

The Provincial Hindu Mahasabha Conference was held at Monghyr. Mr. Savarkar and Dr. Moonje were among the prominent persons who attended. The speeches made at the Conference were at times of a pronouncedly communal tone.

Muslim Organisations.

The failure of the negotiations for a rapprochement between the Congress and the Muslim League embittered the already strained relationship between Hindus and Muslims. The result was that the League

continued to emphasize its communal appeal and to draw more adherents. Its activities tended to become more and more communal and district board and municipal elections were assiduously boycotted. While the spokesman of the League contended that the Congress Government were unjust to them, a section of Hindus protested that they were being sacrificed in an attempt to placate the Muslims.

The All-India session of the League took place in Patna under the presidentship of Mr. M. A. Jinnah during the Christmas holidays. In spite of prior admonitions from the leaders to refrain from irresponsible oratory, there were many bellicose speeches. There was a very uncompromising debate on the subject of Federation, but the rejection of Federation was ultimately watered down in the Working Committee, where Mr. Jinnah was given authority to mould the League policy as circumstances demanded and to explore the possibility of a suitable alternative to the present Federation scheme which would completely safeguard the interests of the Mussalmans and other minorities of India. There was a similar retreat from an uncompromising position in the case of the resolution on civil disobedience where the delegates from the United Provinces and Bihar pressed strongly for a definite decision in favour of civil disobedience. The debate led to many accusations against the Congress Governments, the chief objects of attack being the Vidya Mandir Scheme, the Muslim Mass Contact Movement of the Congress, Bande Matram, the Congress national flag and Hindi as a *lingua franca*. Charges of oppression and victimization were freely made.

The League Session was followed by a conference of the Muslim Students' Federation at which Maulana Zafar Ali Khan made a somewhat heated speech.

More than one investigating committee toured the country on behalf of the League and collected data and published them as so many charge sheets against the Congress Governments. To these the Bihar Congress Government, as other Congress Governments concerned, issued lengthy replies to substantiate their claim that they were more than just and generous to the minority community.

There was a split in the Muslim ranks as the Momins, who are strong in some parts of the province, showed a tendency to separate from the League. They held numerous meetings at which they dissociated themselves from the League and extended support to the Congress.

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while the *Janata* (published weekly) represented the Leftists and the Kisans. The *Yogi* did not represent any political party but it definitely allied itself with the Congress.

So far as the Urdu papers are concerned, there is nothing new to report. The *Ittehad* (bi-weekly) continued to be anti-Congress, pro-Muslim League and pro-British, while the *Al-Helal* (weekly) showed itself to be anti-Muslim League and has had a Congress leaning and tried to eschew communal issues, confining itself mainly to constitutional topics.

There were only two prosecutions under the Press Act, one of which was subsequently withdrawn and the other ended in a fine of Rs. 35 for the accused. The joint editors and publishers of the *Adibasi* were prosecuted under section 153-A, Indian Penal Code, for publishing certain objectionable articles and convicted.

Floods.

The entire Tirhut Division was affected by floods, severer than in the previous year. In Saran, the *bhadoi* and paddy crops were completely destroyed in the flood-affected areas. In Muzaffarpur and Champaran also, some damage was caused to crops, while in Darbhanga crops were washed away, particularly in low-lying tracts. In North Bhagalpur, railway communication between Mansi and Koparia was closed and the Kosi floods were more destructive than in the previous years. In Purnea, the floods caused much distress in July and August. Relief in the shape of taccavi loans and free gifts was given in Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga to enable persons in the flooded areas to purchase seeds and to reconstruct their houses. In North Bhagalpur, where high floods and heavy rainfall caused much damage, gratuitous relief in the shape of house-building grants and free seeds was given. Timely help in the form of gratuitous relief and advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act did much to relieve the distress caused by floods in Purnea. Owing to the Ganges flood many villagers in the Diara area in Rajmahal were rendered homeless. They were given gratuitous relief. A total of Rs. 2,28,118 was allotted for flood relief and Rs. 8,51,934 was actually distributed as taccavi loans.

Economic Situation.

There was no appreciable improvement in the material condition of the people. Weather conditions were favourable in the beginning of the season, but the failure of *hathia* rains adversely affected the winter rice crop. Rains and pests damaged *rabi* crops both in the fields and in the threshing floors. In Tirhut, less sugarcane was grown, so that there was a keen competition for the cane and the higher

minimum prices fixed benefited growers. Chilli and tobacco, which fetch ready money, suffered damage from moisture and frost. In Purnea, the winter rice crop was a bumper one but jute, which is the chief money crop of the district, failed. Sugarcane also suffered from floods and there was less demand for it owing to inability of the sugar mill in the area concerned to consume all the cane produced. In Chota Nagpur, the prices of shellac touched the lowest level hitherto recorded causing considerable distress amongst growers and labourers. The outturn of the paddy crop was very low in parts of Singhbhum. The stock of grains in possession of tenants, left over from previous years, was, however, sufficient. The gradual deterioration of irrigation facilities on the one hand and non-payment of rent on the other formed a vicious circle, as the landlords were without money and unable to do anything unless rents were paid.

The total number of emigrants from Ranchi to the labour districts of Assam was 13,425 including 3,995 dependants against 10,502 labourers including 4,517 dependants, the increase being due to the fluctuations of the labour market. The figures for Palamau decreased to 733 adults and 318 dependants against 1,170 adults and 490 dependants in the previous year. 452 coolies against 444 in the previous year were recruited from the Santal Parganas for the tea districts and 26 coolies were sent to the Lushai Hills. Labourers in that district had sufficient work in stone quarries, *sabai baries*, lac factories, mills and collieries and on the construction and repairs of roads. There was a small increase in the rate of wages in the mica mines. In Ranchi and Palamau, the rural uplift operations afforded employment to many field labourers besides improving the water-supply and communications in villages. In Manbhum, the wages of miners were increased in most collieries. In Singhbhum, the industrial and mining centres, as usual, gave employment to a large number of people. There was improvement in the housing conditions of labourers and arrangements for sanitation and water-supply were effected in some of the mining areas though in the majority of mines and factories there was no arrangement for medical relief.

Administration.

His Excellency Sir Thomas Alexander Stewart, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.C.S., was appointed to act as Governor of Bihar on the 16th May 1938 in place of His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., during his absence as Acting Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. On the 16th September 1938, His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett resumed charge of his

office of Governor after relinquishing his acting appointment as Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

The Hon'ble Sir Courtney Terrell, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, was granted leave from the 9th April to the 5th May 1938 and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. W. E. Wort, was appointed to act as Chief Justice during this period. The Hon'ble Sir Courtney Terrell died on the 7th May 1938 while on leave in England. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Fazl Ali, Bar.-at-Law, was appointed to perform the duties of the Chief Justice from the 14th May to the 17th July 1938, while the Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. W. E. Wort, Bar.-at-Law, was appointed to act as Chief Justice from the 18th July 1938. The Hon'ble Sir A. T. Harries was appointed as the permanent Chief Justice of the High Court and assumed charge of his office on the 10th October 1938.

CHAPTER II.

Finance.

General.

The budgetary position of the province during the year revealed the happy circumstance that while financial solvency had been fully maintained, the foundations for an ameliorative programme had also been securely laid. The Ministry were able to provide for increased expenditure for beneficial purposes, solely devoted to uplifting the masses' condition, despite the inelasticity of the resources of the province. Provisions for new schemes and for schemes continuing from year to year on the availability of funds during the year amounted to Rs. 37½ lakhs in aggregate, of which Rs. 6¼ lakhs was intended for recurring expenditure and Rs. 31¼ lakhs for non-recurring expenditure. The ultimate cost of these schemes was Rs. 7¾ lakhs recurring and Rs. 38½ lakhs non-recurring. The bulk of the available funds for new schemes, namely Rs. 5¾ lakhs recurring and Rs. 13¾ lakhs non-recurring, fell to the share of nation-building departments like Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture, Co-operative and Industries. The additional ultimate recurring commitments which the Ministry had undertaken under these nation-building heads since they took office amounted to Rs. 12½ lakhs.

Taking the revenue position as a whole for the year, there was an increase of Rs. 23,77,000 under revenue and Rs. 43,11,000 under expenditure on revenue account as compared with the figures for 1938-39. Notwithstanding the large increase in expenditure, the year under review closed with a revenue surplus of Rs. 11,81,000. The closing balance of the year was Rs. 1,50,80,000, of which Rs. 75,15,000 was in cash and Rs. 75,65,000 in investments against the total balance of Rs. 1,40,68,000 in the previous year. There was thus an increase of Rs. 10,12,000 in the closing balance which was mainly due to an improvement in the revenue position.

Along with the quest for economy and retrenchment wherever possible, the Ministry tried to explore new sources of revenue to finance their elaborate ameliorative programme. Among the new taxation measures introduced by the Ministry during the previous year the principal one was the Agricultural Income-tax, the annual yield from which was estimated at Rs. 30 to 32 lakhs. This tax-source was so exploited as to leave petty landlords and small

farmers untouched. Bihar was first to venture into this field of taxation, the proceeds from which were to be devoted entirely to the improvement of the condition of the rural masses.

The Ministry proposed to launch upon a progressive and expansionist programme of public expenditure. In this connection the Finance Minister rightly emphasised that it was of the utmost importance that the Province should maintain a sound financial position, so that its credit in the market might enable it to borrow at a reasonable rate for large productive schemes. One of such schemes in view was the electrification project.

Budget For 1939-40.

The third surplus budget under provincial autonomy was presented to the Legislative Assembly on February 20, 1939, by the Hon'ble Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Finance Minister. In introducing the budget the Hon'ble Minister dealt first with some aspects of the constructive achievements of the Ministry since they took office. In the first instance, he referred to the various measures taken by the Ministry for improving the tenancy laws in the province and to the steps taken for reducing the incidence of rent from the high levels to which it had risen. The efforts of Government in this direction had given effect to the resolutions adopted in this behalf by the Indian National Congress, but they have had of course an influence on the budgetary position of the province not only by reducing the income received from rents in Government Estates, but also by the reduction that must inevitably occur in the estimated yield of Agricultural Income-tax, as the yield of this tax might as a result of rent reduction, be reduced from 40 to 30—32 lakhs of rupees. Rent reduction must also affect the realisations of road-cess, thereby reducing the income of district boards which might make them turn more to Government for financial assistance.

He next dealt with schemes of development and referred to the various measures taken for the improvement of agriculture, development of sugarcane, the rehabilitation of lac industry, and the scheme for rural development. He also referred to the decision of Government to rehabilitate the co-operative movement and such central banks as were capable of recovery and to give such financial assistance as might be necessary for this purpose.

He next dealt with the irrigation problems and indicated the difficulties that surrounded the settlement of the flood problem in Saran. Schemes for dealing with this problem were, however, under consideration and it was expected that a supplementary

demand would be put forward to give effect to them. The Private and Minor Irrigation Works Bills were mentioned as indicating the Government's intention of proceeding with all schemes calculated to increase the productivity of the soil and to add to the income of the province and the provision of considerable sums of money in each district of Chota Nagpur for small irrigation projects.

He next briefly mentioned the Bihar Electrification Project which the Technical Committee appointed by Government had referred to as a project " which it is incumbent on Government to carry out ". Steps were taken to appoint necessary technical staff for the preparation of this project and when matters developed it would be necessary to borrow a sum of Rs. 2½ crores for the project itself and an additional Rs. ¾ crore for tube-wells, as it formed an integral part of the proposal that steps should be taken to increase the opportunity for lift irrigation by the installation of electrically driven pumps on tube-wells. The project has had a two-fold purpose, namely, the industrial development of the province and the improvement of the yield of the land and the economic condition of the peasantry.

Passing on to the actual budget figures the Hon'ble Minister dealt first with the revised estimates of the year 1938-39, which worked out somewhat more favourably than a year ago. Revenue was estimated at Rs. 21 lakhs higher, the increase being due to the imposition of the cess on the entry of sugarcane into local areas (Rs. 12 lakhs), a less steep drop in Excise revenue than was anticipated (Rs. 14 lakhs) and a slightly larger yield from the Stamp Amending Act passed in the preceding year (Rs. 2 lakhs). Against these increases, however, there was a drop of Rs. 5 lakhs under Agricultural Income-tax, as the passing of the Act and framing of the rules took longer than was anticipated and notices of demand were just being issued, while the land revenue estimates were also down by Rs. 4 lakhs as a result of the floods and some remission of arrears in Government Estates. Receipts from loans were also down by Rs. 2½ lakhs, mainly owing to the postponement of the recovery of instalments due on the loan granted to the Provincial Co-operative Bank. The net increase in receipts credited to ordinary balance over the original estimate was, therefore, Rs. 18½ lakhs.

Against this increase expenditure debited to ordinary balance was Rs. 6¼ lakhs more than the original estimate, which included Rs. 8 lakhs of reserve for schemes which were not ready when the budget was framed. These schemes had been introduced in the

course of the year and included preliminary provision for the Mass Literacy Movement, increased expenditure on anti-malarial measures and rural development and organisation of cane-growers' co-operative societies. Additional expenditure was also incurred on rent reduction operations, various enquiry committees and relief given in respect of distress caused by floods. Floods also necessitated additional expenditure on *takavi* loans.

As a result of these alterations in Revenue and Expenditure in the Revised, ordinary balance would increase during 1938-39 by Rs. 13½ lakhs. Most of this increase was, however, due to the cess on sugarcane, the proceeds of which, as it was introduced relatively late, could not be expended during the year, as schemes for its expenditure were not fully developed.

As a result of this increase, the year 1939-40 was expected to open with an opening balance of Rs. 70 lakhs. Revenue for next year was taken at Rs. 538½ lakhs, and expenditure charged to revenue at 537¾ lakhs, leaving a small revenue surplus of Rs. ¾ lakh. There was also a small excess of loans recovered over loans advanced amounting to Rs. 7¾ lakhs. Capital expenditure was estimated at Rs. 1 lakh mainly on the completion of earth-quake reconstruction. The figures, therefore, indicated that ordinary balance should increase by 7½ lakhs and the budget was, therefore, balanced. He, however, anticipated that more than this surplus would be required to meet supplementary demands arising during the year, and he pointed out that the heavy requirements for financing the continuance of the Excise prohibition programme and of the various development schemes, which Government had in contemplation, must be kept in mind. Therefore though no additional taxation measures formed part of his budget proposal, he indicated that he was contemplating additional taxation and that its introduction must inevitably be necessary.

The increase in next year's anticipated revenue over this year's revised was about Rs. 19 lakhs, after allowing for a further reduction of Rs. 10 lakhs as a further instalment of the prohibition programme. Therefore other revenue heads increased on balance by Rs. 29 lakhs. Of this increase, Rs. 5¾ lakhs resulted merely from an accounting change. Of the remainder, Rs. 20 lakhs was the estimated yield during the year from Agricultural Income-tax, the annual yield from which was estimated at Rs. 30—32 lakhs, while the cess on sugarcane was expected to yield an additional Rs. 3 lakhs as a result of a larger anticipated area under cane, and a larger transfer from the Road Fund deposit account for expenditure on Road Fund projects accounted for the balance.

Expenditure charged to revenue exceeded the Revised by Rs. 33½ lakhs. Of this increase, Rs. 5¾ lakhs was caused by the accounting change referred to above, while new schemes totalled Rs. 31¼ lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 6¼ lakhs recurring, but of these some were schemes which were repeated from year to year as new schemes, as funds were not available to sanction them permanently.

New Schemes.

Prominent among the new schemes was the provision of Rs. 5 lakhs for a revolving fund to finance minor irrigation projects throughout the province. In the past it had been found difficult to find money to finance these projects, and the Hon'ble Minister, who stressed the great value of such small irrigation projects to the prosperity of the province, explained that the intention of the fund was that money should be immediately available as advances to carry out the projects, the advances being subsequently recovered from the persons benefited. Another very important scheme was the proposed introduction of free and compulsory primary education in municipalities situated in district headquarters at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs of which Rs. 1¾ lakhs was recurring. The opening of schools for basic education according to the Wardha Scheme and expenditure on Wardha training accounted for new recurring expenditure of Rs. 42,000, and considerable extra provision was made for encouragement of female education. Provision was made for a Military Training School at a cost of Rs. 55,000, an additional sum of Rs. 40,000 was allotted to the Mass Literacy Movement, and Rs. 30,000 for the establishment of village libraries. Among Medical and Public Health schemes, in addition to the usual semi-recurring schemes, there were provisions of Rs. 22,000 for anti-leprosy work in Manbhum, Rs. 32,000 for the establishment of a cheap tuberculosis sanatorium at Patna, Rs. 60,000 for anti-malarial schemes and a further Rs. 60,000 for provision of free quinine. A drive was also being made against Kala-azar, the incidence of which is increasing to an alarming extent in North Bihar and, in addition to sums already provided by supplementary demand, further provision of about Rs. 1 lakh was made for this purpose. Provision for rural water-supply was increased to Rs. 1½ lakhs. New schemes under Agriculture and Industries accounted for about Rs. 3 lakhs, and this total was made up of a large number of small and important schemes, though sanction to some of the more important sugar development schemes, involving expenditure of about Rs. 4 lakhs a year, was being taken by supplementary demand in March. Under jails, there was a provision of about Rs. 52,000 for industrialisation of jail labour.

Expenditure on road fund works was expected to total Rs. 9¾ lakhs but part of this was expenditure on schemes in progress.

As a result it was expected that the year would close with an ordinary balance of Rs. 77½ lakhs, inclusive of minimum closing balance of Rs. 21 lakhs, while the balance in the debt deposit heads would be an additional Rs. 71½ lakhs. The Hon'ble Minister, however, pointed out that the commitments which Government were likely to have to undertake in connection with the rehabilitation of the co-operative movement and meeting interest on an electrification project loan for its early years during which it might be unremunerative was likely to swallow up the whole of the ordinary balance.

Supplementary Grants.

Of the four supplementary schedules of expenditure relating to the year under review, one was authenticated and the rest authorised by His Excellency the Governor. The schedules comprised 69 supplementary grants involving a sum of Rs. 45,05,382 of which Rs. 19,62,365 was voted by the Legislature and Rs. 25,43,017 authorised by His Excellency the Governor under section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and fifteen supplementary appropriations aggregating Rs. 2,29,305 required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the province. A token grant of Rs. 5 each was obtained for 90 new schemes which could be financed by reappropriation of savings within the grant or appropriation concerned.

Electrification Project.

During the year Government decided to investigate fully the possibility of the establishment of an Electric Grid System for the supply of electricity over a major portion of the province lying south of the Ganges both for agricultural and industrial purposes. A Special Officer was appointed and was charged with the duty of making a rough survey of conditions obtaining in the province so far as it related to the establishment of such a scheme. The Special Officer reported that conditions were very favourable and he also outlined a scheme showing roughly the capital cost involved. A Technical Committee consisting of Mr. S. B. Forbes, Chief Electrical Engineer, Government of Mysore, Mr. Mitra, Government of India Mining Electrical Inspector, and Mr. J. Parkinson, Chief Electrical Engineer, Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, was appointed to examine this report. The Technical Committee unanimously supported the view of the Special Officer that conditions were favourable in the province for the establishment

of an Electric Grid System and recommended the framing of details and the collection of more technical data. Government also appointed a Standing Committee consisting of all the four Ministers and representatives of both Houses of the Legislature to advise them on matters relating to Electrification. This Committee recommended that, by way of experiment, and with a view to gain actual experience of the reaction of the people of the province towards the project, an instalment of the scheme be constructed in the Dehri-Sasaram area and worked with electricity purchased from Messrs. Rohtas Industries, Limited. Estimates and plans were accordingly prepared for it and negotiations started with the Rohtas Industries, Limited for the supply of energy up to 1,000 kilowatts.

CHAPTER III.

The Legislature.

Sessions And Meetings Of The Assembly. The second year of provincial autonomy saw much greater legislative activity than the previous one. In all there were 73 sittings of the Assembly, of which 62 days were devoted to the transaction of official business and the rest to non-official business.

Questions. Notices of 1,983 questions were received, of which 1,538 on wide range of subjects were admitted. 412 were disallowed as they contravened the rules of the Assembly, 33 withdrawn, 913 answered and 625 remained pending at the close of the year. In addition, 2,000 supplementary questions were put and answered.

Resolutions. Out of 782 resolutions given notice of as many as 698 ranging over a wide field of social and political interest were included in the agenda for discussion and the remaining ones were disallowed as being inadmissible under the rules. 284 of these related substantially to the same subject. Only 18 resolutions were actually moved and discussed of which 9 were adopted by the House, 6 were withdrawn and 3 were rejected.

Adjournment Motions. Twenty-one motions for adjournment of the House were received, of which 10 were disallowed and the notices of four were ultimately not pressed by the members concerned. The rest were moved and discussed but talked out.

The Budget. The presentation of the Budget took one day, while 3 days were devoted to the general discussion and voting of demands for grants occupied eleven days. In order to facilitate discussion, a system described as "grouping of budget demands according to their importance" was introduced According to this system the demands for grants were arranged in 6 groups, 5 groups to occupy 2 days each and the 6th group to be taken up on the last day available for the purpose. Following the well-established parliamentary principle 'grievances before supply', members subjected the Budget to careful scrutiny tabling no less than 890 motions either for reduction of the Budget demands or for reduction or omission of items under such demands,

But only 17 of such motions could be discussed, some of them dealing with important subjects, such as the introduction of hand-spun and hand-woven *khadi* uniforms, the necessity of opening an Agricultural College in the province, the policy of Government in matters of appointment, the Wardha Scheme and Prohibition.

Out of these 17 cut motions, 3 were negatived, 13 withdrawn and 1 could not be put to vote as it fell under the guillotine.

In addition to the main Budget, there were as many as 51 supplementary demands. All the demands were voted without any alteration.

Legislation. The year as the previous one was of great legislative importance, inasmuch as 31 legislative measures were dealt with by the Assembly during the year. Among these important were :

The Bihar Restoration of Bakasht Lands and Reduction of Arrears of Rent Bill, 1938, affording relief to raiyats by providing for reduction of rent on the ground of fall in prices as also by making provision for liquidation of arrears of rent and easy realisation of the reduced arrears.

The Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Bill, 1938, the object of which was to levy agricultural income-tax on agricultural income, as defined (with a small alteration to suit local conditions) in the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

The Bihar Prohibition Bill, 1938, which contemplated to implement Government's policy in regard to the prohibition of liquor, *tari* and intoxicating drugs and gave Government authority to introduce prohibition in selected areas with power to extend it to other areas as time and experience would enable such extension to be made.

The Bihar Money-Lenders Bill, 1937, which intended to give relief to the debtors, to prevent the exaction of usurious rates of interest and to regulate the business of money-lending.

The Bihar Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1938, which proposed to exempt an instrument of divorce of a Muslim at the dissolution of his or her marriage from the imposition of any stamp duty thereon under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

The Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1938, which provided for the repeal of the provisions in the Bihar Tenancy Act, 1885,

relating to the right of landlords to take out certificates for recovery of arrears of rent, abolition of transfer fee and definition of the rights of raiyats in trees, plantations and *jalkar* in their holdings.

The Champaran Agrarian (Amendment) Bill, 1938, which provided to cancel all enhancements of rents made by the landlords on the raiyats of Champaran in lieu of the condition imposed on them for indigo planting when trade in indigo was in a flourishing state.

The Bihar (Bihar and Orissa Public Safety) Repealing Bill, 1939, the object of which was to repeal the Bihar and Orissa Public Safety Act, 1933.

The Bihar (Bihar and Orissa) Mica Repealing Bill, 1939, which sought to repeal the Bihar and Orissa Mica Act, 1930, as instead of putting a stop to mica theft to any appreciable extent it was found to have put unnecessary restraint on mica trade.

Fifteen other bills were introduced, but could not be disposed of during the year.

Party Organisations.

During the year the strength of the different parties in the Assembly was as follows :—

Congress	98
Bihar Nationalist Coalition	26
Muslim Independent Party	20

Seven members, including four of the Muslim League, did not join any of the above parties.

Obituary References.

The House expressed regret at the death of four of its members, Mr. Chaturanan Das, Mr. Abdul Majid, Mr. Upendra Nath Mukherjee and Mr. Saiyid Ali Manzar and of seven others who were associated with the Provincial Legislature in the pre-1935 Act days and at the death of such distinguished personages as Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal, Maulana Shaukat Ali and Mustafa Kamal Pasha and paid warm tributes to the memory of the deceased.

Committees Of The House.

Members were elected to the House Committee, the Library Committee, the Committee of Privileges, etc.

Bye-elections.

There were six bye-elections to fill the vacancies in the Patna and Tirhut *cum* Bhagalpur European Constituency, Bihar Planters' Association Constituency, South Madhubani General Rural Constituency, Hazaribagh Muhammadan Rural Constituency, Bhagalpur Division General Urban Constituency and Patna Division Landholders' Constituency.

Officers Of The Assembly.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ramdayalu Sinha continued to be the Speaker and Mr. Abdul Bari, the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

Legislative Council Sessions And Meetings.

Altogether 56 meetings were held during the year, of which 6 days were devoted to the transaction of non-official business.

Questions.

Notices of 382 questions were received, of which 41 were disallowed and 44 remained pending at the conclusion of the third session. 276 questions on different subjects were put and answered and as many as 635 supplementary questions were asked.

Resolutions.

Notices of 32 resolutions were received, of which 2 were disallowed and 30 resolutions were tabled for discussion, of which 8 were actually discussed, 6 were withdrawn, 2 were lost and the rest were crowded out. Among the resolutions discussed were those relating to the opening of a Club at Patna for aeroplanes and gliders, the formation of Chota Nagpur Division and the district of the Santal Parganas into a separate province and the reduction of rate of interest on earthquake loans advanced under the Natural Calamaties Loans Act, 1934. These were either withdrawn or negatived.

Adjournment Motions.

Two adjournment motions to discuss matters of urgent public importance were admitted. One regarding the order promulgated by the Subdivisional Officer, Bihar Sharif, was talked out and the other regarding the attempted sabotage of the 14 Down Express near Gidhaur was negatived.

The Budget.

The Budget estimates for the year 1939-40 were presented to the Council on the 20th February, 1939, and the estimates were discussed for several days. The first, second and third Supplementary Statements of Expenditure for 1938-39 were laid on the table and several days were devoted to their discussion.

Legislation.

No fewer than 18 Bills passed by the Assembly were also passed by the Council during the year either with amendment or without and 15 non-official Bills were introduced therein, some of which being allowed to be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

The report of the committee appointed to frame draft rules of

Draft Council Rules. Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Legislative Council under section 84(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, was presented on the 12th May, 1938.

The Hon'ble Mr. Rajivaranjan Prasad Sinha continued to be

Officers Of The Council. the President and Mr. Saiyid Naqi Imam the Deputy President of the Council.

CHAPTER IV.

Local Self-Government.

On the expiry of the term of five years general elections to

General. all district boards in the province were held during the year. Government adopted several measures to make the elections as democratic and representative as possible by liberalising the franchise. After reconstitution the four district boards of Chota Nagpur, namely, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau and Singhbhum exercised the right of electing non-official chairmen like the other district boards of the province. The Bhagalpur district board and the local boards of the district, which were superseded in March 1936, continued to be so throughout the year and the representative committee appointed by Government to aid and advise the special officer in the administration of the district board continued to function as in the previous year. The board was reconstituted by election shortly after the close of the year.

With a view to implementing the recommendations made by the Santal Parganas Enquiry Committee, Government decided to extend the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act to the district of the Santal Parganas with certain modifications so as to permit the setting up of an elected district board there. The status of the Santal Parganas district board is similar to that of the other district boards of the province with the exception that it will have for the first five years an official chairman appointed by Government.

An event of importance was the declaration of certain areas in the district of Hazaribagh as a mining area under the Hazaribagh Mines Board Act, 1936, and the newly constituted Mines Board under the Act began to function during the year.

A larger provision than in the previous year was made for grants to the district boards for construction of wells in rural areas for supply of pure drinking-water. A substantial portion of these grants was earmarked for providing wells in villages wholly or mainly inhabited by Harijans, including aboriginals in case of Chota Nagpur Division and the Santal Parganas.

The limited resources of the Boards did not permit any appreciable advance in their activities during the year but the funds available were profitably utilised by most of them, and the administration of the boards was fairly satisfactory except in Saran. All the district boards, except the district board of Hazaribagh, held meetings in excess of the statutory minimum of 12 meetings during the year. The Purnea district board held the largest number of meetings, namely 31. The average percentage of attendance of members at meetings was above 50 in all districts except Champaran, where it was 49.1. The average percentage of attendance of official members at meetings was very low in Champaran, being only 26.6, while in the other districts it varied from 44.3 to 88.5. The percentage of attendance of non-official members varied from 51.1 to 89.3.

District Boards.

The executives of the district boards of Patna, Shahabad, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Purnea and Singhbhum made fully extensive tours and inspected the various institutions and offices under their charge, while in the other district boards the amount of touring done by the executives was inadequate.

Income And Expenditure.

The total opening balance of district boards, including deposits and unspent Government grants, was Rs. 33,12,000 on April 1, 1938 against Rs. 20,89,000 in the previous year. The increase was shared by all the boards except Gaya, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh and Manbhum. The total receipts of the boards from all sources, including Government grants but excluding the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 1,38,95,000 against Rs. 1,61,36,000 in the previous year. The total amount available for expenditure during the year, including the opening balance, thus stood at Rs. 1,72,07,000 out of which a total sum of Rs. 1,45,34,000 was actually spent leaving a closing balance of Rs. 26,73,000. Leaving aside the deposits amounting to Rs. 4,12,000, the actual balance at the credit of the boards thus stood at Rs. 22,61,000 of which Rs. 6,46,000 represents unspent balances of Government grants. The actual closing balances of all boards except those of Saran, Champaran and Monghyr were above the minimum prescribed in each case. Local rates, which form the bulk of the income of the district boards, increased from Rs. 70,28,000 to Rs. 70,85,000. The increase was shared by the district boards of Patna, Shahabad, Champaran and the five boards of the Chota Nagpur Division. The decrease in the districts of the Tirhut Division was due partly to bad collection of cess and partly to the rent reduction operations, and that in the districts of the Bhagalpur Division was due mainly to the latter factor.

The total amount of grants made to the district boards from the provincial revenues for various purposes amounted to Rs. 45,20,000 against Rs. 66,20,000 in the previous year. The grants for "Education" decreased from Rs. 26,28,000 to Rs. 25,67,000 and "Civil Works" from Rs. 35,66,000 to Rs. 16,00,000. On the other hand, Government contributions for "Medical" and "Public Health" purposes increased from Rs. 3,06,000 to Rs. 3,42,000 due to the launching of anti-malarial and anti-mosquito measures.

Though the total expenditure of the boards decreased from Rs. 1,49,13,000 to Rs. 1,45,34,000, the expenditure on such principal heads as "Education" increased from Rs. 41,35,000 to Rs. 42,58,000, "Public Health" from Rs. 6,25,000 to Rs. 6,33,000 and "Medical Relief" from Rs. 14,55,000 to Rs. 14,73,000.

Education.

In the sphere of education, the progress on the whole was satisfactory. The number of all classes of schools, except middle vernacular schools (both maintained and aided) and upper primary schools aided by the district boards, and the number of pupils appreciably increased. The number of middle English schools maintained and aided by the boards rose from 299 and 177 to 333 and 239, respectively, and that of middle vernacular schools dwindled from 77 and 15 to 55 and 12, respectively. The decrease in the number of middle vernacular schools was due to the conversion of such schools into middle English schools, the demand for which is reported to be increasing. The total expenditure of the boards on education increased from Rs. 41,35,000 to Rs. 42,58,000. The increase was shared by all the district boards except Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur. The conversion of stipendiary aided and unaided schools into board-managed ones, raising of the status of certain schools, appointment of additional teachers, replacement of untrained teachers by trained ones, payment to the *gurus* of primary schools at the prescribed minimum rates and periodical increments in the salaries of teachers were among the factors leading to the increased expenditure.

Though the progress of female education was handicapped by the dearth of trained female teachers, it received great impetus in the districts of Patna and Gaya and facilities for the same were improved in both the districts, and the number of girls receiving education in boys' schools generally increased.

Certain district boards, notably Purnea, extended aid to schools for boys and girls belonging to the aboriginal and depressed classes. The free supply of books and writing material and the award of prizes and scholarships and grant of other concessions to such students helped to promote the cause of education of these classes.

The mass literacy campaign was enthusiastically taken up by most of the district boards.

Some of the district boards continued to award scholarships for technical, medical and other types of specialised education.

Medical Relief.

The expenditure incurred by the boards under this head increased from Rs. 14,55,000 to Rs. 14,73,000. The increase was shared by all the boards except Saran, Darbhanga and Monghyr. The total number of dispensaries maintained by the boards increased during the year by 20 and the number of aided dispensaries also increased by 23. The indigenous system of medicine (Ayurvedic and Tibbi) and Homeopathy received encouragement by the opening and subsidizing of dispensaries representing each of these branches in certain areas. Some boards also financed tuberculosis clinics, while others took special measures for maternity work. Provision for the treatment of leprosy cases continued to be made by some of the district boards and contributions for anti-rabic treatment were also made by some boards. Most of the boards awarded scholarships for medical education both in allopathic and indigenous systems.

Public Health.

The total expenditure of the boards under this head increased from Rs. 6,25,000 to Rs. 6,33,000. The increase was shared by a number of boards but was most marked in Gaya, Champaran and Purnea. The activities of the boards in this sphere consisted, as usual, of provision of preventive and curative measures to combat outbreaks of epidemics and of measures to improve the sources of drinking water-supply in rural areas. The education of public opinion in villages in general principles of sanitation and hygiene by lantern lectures and demonstrations formed another important activity of the health staff of the boards.

Vigorous measures were taken to combat the epidemic of malaria in the districts of Bhagalpur and Tirhut Divisions. In addition to permanent dispensaries, seven epidemic centres and sub-centres were opened in the malaria affected areas in the Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions in the district of Bhagalpur and there was free distribution of quinine, sago and sugar to the needy. A scheme for anti-malarial work was formulated by the Bhagalpur district board and it received a special grant of Rs. 11,500 from Government towards the cost of the scheme. In Muzaffarpur, Government sanctioned an intensive anti-malarial scheme to be carried on in 6 units where malarial conditions were known to be worst. Curative measures and anti-mosquito work were carried out in all these units, and all water-logged areas in and around the villages in these units were cleared of weeds and sprayed with pyrocide mixture. The Government Waterways Division excavated two channels during the year in Majorganj to drain off the spill area of the Manusmara river and a third one is under excavation. In Darbhanga, 70 temporary malaria centres were opened in affected localities for distribution of medicines to the sufferers and Government supplied 794 lbs. of quinine for free distribution. The anti-mosquito measures were also reinforced. As a result of this intensive campaign the incidence of malaria was reduced in the affected areas.

Veterinary.

The total expenditure under this head increased by Rs. 12,000 as compared with the previous year. The increase was shared by all the boards except Patna, Champaran, Darbhanga and Monghyr but was most noticeable in Gaya and Purnea. In Gaya, it was attributed to actual requirements of the year and the increase in the number of stud bulls, while in Purnea it was due to the maintenance of two additional touring veterinary assistant surgeons. In other districts, where there was some increase in expenditure under this head, it was due chiefly to increased expenditure on medicines, sera and vaccine. There was, on the whole, an increase in the number of cases treated at veterinary hospitals and by the touring veterinary assistant surgeons. Goat virus inoculation was popular in Bhagalpur and Monghyr, and in the former district as many as 21,887 head of cattle were vaccinated against 9,766 in the previous year. A number of district boards continued to maintain stud bulls for improvement of the breed of cows and buffaloes.

Civil Works.

The expenditure under this head fell from Rs. 64,61,000 to Rs. 56,14,000. The decrease was shared by the district boards of the Tirhut Division and also by the district boards of Gaya, Purnea and Palamau. Out of the total expenditure under this head, the boards spent Rs. 4,72,000 on building works and Rs. 41,12,000 on communications. The bulk of the expenditure on communications was

incurred on repairs and maintenance of roads. In the matter of communications noteworthy progress was made in the Patna and Gaya districts. In particular, mention may be made of the metalling of the Bihar-Rajgir road, an important road connecting one of the famous places of pilgrimage and a health resort with hot water springs. The total mileage of metalled, unmetalled and village roads maintained by the district boards during the year was 2,396, 15,125 and 10,046, respectively.

Water Hyacinth.

Water hyacinth is spreading in the rural areas of the district of Shahabad and its eradication demands greater attention on the part of the district board than it has received so far. In Muzaffarpur, a bye-law for the eradication of the weed is in force and this is reported to have gone a great way in checking its growth. In Monghyr also, similar bye-laws have been approved and it is hoped that their proper enforcement will remove the pest from the district. For Bhagalpur and Purnea more active and concerted measures are needed to put an end to this rapidly growing menace.

Local Boards.

The total number and constitution of local board remained unchanged during the year. The local boards in Bhagalpur continued to remain under supersession along with the district board throughout the year. The majority of the local boards held the statutory minimum of 12 meetings a year. The average percentage of attendance at meetings was above 50 in all local boards with a few exceptions. The local boards continued to exercise the same powers as in the previous year except that the Dhanbad local board, which exercises very wide powers in respect of all matters, was deprived of the privilege which it had long enjoyed of entering into contracts of values varying from Rs. 500 to Rs. 5,000, such contracts being now accepted by the district board direct.

Union Committees.

The total number of union committees remained the same and all of them continued to work with the same number of members as in the previous year. The union committees of Haveli-Kharagpur, Gogri and Khagaria in Monghyr and Balrampur and Chas in Manbhum were reconstituted during the year. Out of 22 union committees 8 failed to hold the prescribed number of 12 meetings during the year. The activities of these committees were, as usual, confined to the maintenance of roads, sanitary measures and conservancy arrangements, management of pounds, maintenance of primary schools and dispensaries and the improvement of water-supply. Some

committees also maintained street lighting with the funds provided by the district boards concerned. The total receipts of these committees from all sources during the year amounted to Rs. 91,417 (excluding the opening balance of Rs. 18,818) while the total amount available for expenditure, including the opening balance, was Rs. 1,10,235 of which Rs. 91,356 was spent during the year.

Union Boards.

The working of the Union Boards was not marked by any indication of real progress during the year. The total number of union boards rose from 147 to 168. The increase was due to the creation of 17 new union boards in the district of Purnea and 4 new boards in the district of Hazaribagh. The distribution of union boards by divisions was: 80 in Tirhut, 30 in Patna, 44 in Bhagalpur and 14 in Chota Nagpur. The responsibilities of the union boards were generally confined to the maintenance and repairs of roads, primary education, water-supply, drainage, sanitation, conservancy and medical relief in addition to administration of rural police in the case of those boards where Part III of the Village Administration Act has been brought into force. The relations of the union boards with the police and the magistracy were satisfactory almost everywhere and subdivisional officers continued to accept the nominations of these boards for the appointment of Chaukidars. The assessment of Chaukidari tax was generally fair. There was a further fall in the average figure of grant-in-aid per union board made by the district boards in the province which during the year was Rs. 1,663.9 against Rs. 1,724.8 in the previous year. In Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions there was an increase in the average amount of union tax levied by union boards, whereas the average taxation fell to a certain extent in the other two divisions.

Municipalities.

There were altogether 57 municipalities in Bihar, including notified area committees and the Patna Administration Committee, against 55 in the previous year. General elections were held in the municipalities of Bihar, Dinapur Nizamat, Arrah, Jagdispur, Buxar, Sasaram, Chapra, Revelganj, Siwan, Bettiah, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Monghyr, Kishanganj, Katihar, Deoghar, Sahibganj, Dumka, Madhupur, Daltonganj, Raghunathpur and Chakradharpur. The elections were contested in all these municipalities except in Samastipur, Katihar, Deoghar, and Raghunathpur and in certain wards of the Chapra, Bettiah, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga and Madhubani municipalities. The candidates belonging to the Congress Party were successful in most of the

municipalities. Female voters took part in the elections to a certain extent but Muslim voters generally kept aloof. The general election of the Dhanbad municipality had to be postponed on account of certain irregularities in the preparation of the electoral rolls. Single-seated wards were introduced in the Bihar, Monghyr, Purnea and Dhanbad municipalities during the year under review. With the exception of a few municipalities, municipal administration in general continued to be unsatisfactory. The main causes of municipal mal-administration appear to be reluctance of municipal commissioners to levy adequate taxation, their failure to collect taxes promptly and to take coercive measures prescribed by the law where necessary, failure on the part of executives to exercise proper control, prevalence of party factions and their unwillingness to profit by the advice given by the inspecting officers of Government from time to time. There were comparatively few instances where individual municipalities did good work. Considerable improvement was reported to have been made in the affairs of the Deoghar municipality. The Dumka municipality made a good start, the Jamalpur municipality worked satisfactorily while in the Bhagalpur municipality the collection of the main taxes showed signs of improvement, and the administration of the Katihar municipality was reported to have been sound. The collection of taxes by the Sahebganj municipality was satisfactory and its executives were reported to have been keen on effecting all possible improvements. The working of the municipalities of Hajipur, Lalganj, Roserah, Sitamarhi, Samastipur and of the Notified Area Committee of Dumra was satisfactory. The municipalities of Barh, Deoghar and Madhupur were released from supersession during the year and the Monghyr municipality was released soon after the close of the year.

Income And Expenditure.

The opening balance at the commencement of the year was Rs. 11,68,032 against Rs. 11,77,477 in the previous year. The total income excluding the opening balance, also fell from Rs. 45,10,322 to Rs. 39,97,476. The decrease was due to the fall in receipts under the heads "Municipal registration, license and other fees", "Realisation under special Acts" and "Grants and contributions for general and special purposes". The decrease was particularly marked in the Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions. The total receipts including the opening balance decreased from Rs. 61,71,210 to Rs. 55,95,044. The ordinary expenditure decreased from Rs. 45,10,736 to Rs. 40,67,950.

Education.

The total expenditure on education incurred by municipalities and notified area committees increased from Rs. 4,59,699 to Rs. 4,79,502 during the year, including Rs. 3,97,900 on primary education. The provincial percentage of expenditure on primary schools on the total ordinary income was 14.1 as against 14.9 in the previous year. The percentage of expenditure increased in Patna Division from 15.4 to 18.6 and in the Tirhut Division from 18.8 to 20, but fell in the Bhagalpur Division from 19.0 to 17.9 and in the Chota Nagpur Division from 27.2 to 24.5.

Indoor Administration.

The total number of meetings held in municipalities, including notified area committees, was 1,100 as against 1,003 in the previous year. The largest number of meetings were held in the municipalities of Patna City (48), Gaya (42), Madhubani (33), Lohardaga (33), Bhabua (32), Dumka (30), Khagaul (28), Chapra (28), Bettiah (28), Hazaribagh (27), Ranchi (27), Sasaram (26) and Katihar (26). The municipalities of Lalganj, Buxar and Madhupur and the Notified Area Committees of Doranda and Jamshedpur failed to hold the statutory minimum number of meetings, *viz.*, 12 in a year, while the total number of meetings which proved abortive for want of quorum was 24 as against 41 in the preceding year. As in the previous year, the average percentage of official members present at meetings was less than 50 in 17 municipalities, the lowest percentages being in Bihar (18), Arrah (18), Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (12), Roserah (10) and Gaya (7). The average percentage of the attendance of non-official members at meetings of municipal boards was above 50 in 48 municipalities which was satisfactory. The highest percentage was in Madhupur (90).

Outdoor Administration.

The expenditure decreased under all heads of outdoor administration except "Public Safety" and "Public Instruction", the increase under the former being mostly due to increased expenditure on lighting and was shared by all the divisions.

Drainage arrangements were inadequate in the majority of municipalities in the Patna Division. The drainage scheme of the Patna City municipality from the Bakerganj Nala to the Training school was completed and began to function during the year. The Amlatola drainage extension scheme prepared by the Patna Administration Committee at an estimated cost of Rs. 53,000 could not be taken up for want of funds. A preliminary drainage scheme for

the entire town of Gaya was prepared and a loan of Rs. 75,000 was sanctioned by Government during the year towards the cost of this scheme. In the Chota Nagpur Division expenditure under water-supply decreased in all municipalities except three. Piped water-supply seems to be a pressing need of the town of Hazaribagh but cannot be made available on account of the heavy cost involved which is beyond the present means of the municipality. A scheme for water-supply at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,22,000 was prepared for the Chaibassa municipality which proposed to meet the cost by taking a loan.

There was a rise in expenditure under the head "conservancy" in the Patna Division. It decreased in the Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions and slightly in the Chota Nagpur Division.

The expenditure under the head "epidemics" slightly increased in the Bhagalpur and Tirhut Divisions and slightly decreased in the Patna Division. A number of municipalities continued to support the maternity and child welfare work and maintained a number of qualified midwives.

Miscellaneous.

Government sanctioned during the year an aggregate grant of Rs. 1,21,000 to the municipalities and notified area committees out of the proceeds of the motor vehicles taxation for the maintenance of roads and of Rs. 56,000 for certain minor schemes for the improvement of drainage and water-supply, etc. Besides these a grant of Rs. 50,000 was made to the Monghyr municipality for the town improvement scheme and a loan of Rs. 75,000 was sanctioned to the Gaya municipality for its drainage scheme and of Rs. 22,000 to the Bhagalpur municipality for the extension of the water mains.

An official bill was introduced in the Bihar Legislative Assembly to amend the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act, 1922 and was referred to the Joint Select Committee. Reservation of seats for Muslims according to the percentage of their population in municipalities, increase in the maximum number of municipal commissioners to 50 instead of 40 as at present, provision for co-option of commissioners up to a maximum limit of 1/8th of the total number of commissioners out of which 1/12th may be members belonging to scheduled castes who, in addition, will be free to contest the election to any seat not reserved for Muslims and the right given to the members of the Muslim community to contest also seats other than those reserved for their own community are some of the salient features of the bill.

CHAPTER V.

Education.

General.

Substantial progress was achieved in all branches of education during the year, particularly in the education of girls, Muslims, scheduled castes and aborigines. Among outstanding instances of educational progress and reform were adult education by means of the mass literacy campaign, village libraries, the evolution of Hindustani as a common language, Indian languages as the medium of instruction, the introduction of the basic education experiment and the completion of plans for the inauguration of compulsory primary education. There was an increase in the percentage of literates to the total population from 3.32 in 1938 to 3.51 in 1939. The percentage of male scholars to male population also increased from 5.84 to 6.13 and that of female scholars from .78 to .87. The number of educational institutions of all kinds increased by 643 accompanied by a rise of 61,909 pupils during the year. There were 20,712 recognised institutions for the education of males and 2,160 for the education of females throughout the province besides 2,451 unrecognised institutions. Of the latter 2,154 were for males and 297 exclusively for females. The number of male scholars increased from 935,141 to 985,225, an increase of 50,084, while that of the female scholars increased from 69,864 to 76,020, an increase of 6,156. The total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 1,62,93,776 to Rs. 1,63,16,712. Of this 27.53 per cent was met by Government, 29.88 per cent from local funds, 27.36 per cent from fees and 15.23 per cent from other sources.

Primary Education.

The number of primary schools of all kinds for boys and girls, both European and Indian, rose from 20,803 to 21,212 and that of their pupils from 802,264 to 839,755, and the direct expenditure from Rs. 48,92,750 to Rs. 48,95,687. The number of primary schools for Indian boys rose from 18,782 to 19,132 and that of their pupils from 742,440 to 776,185, resulting in an increase of 33,745 pupils and of the direct expenditure from Rs. 44,29,204 to Rs. 44,42,862. The total annual grant for primary education placed at the disposal of the local bodies during the year was Rs. 28,47,586. The number of upper primary schools for boys

rose from 3,062 with 225,752 pupils to 3,164 with 238,416 pupils and of the lower primary schools from 15,720 with 516,688 pupils to 15,968 with 537,769 pupils. There was also an increase in the number of recognised primary Urdu schools from 2,222 to 2,242 and of primary Sanskrit schools from 758 to 788. The number of one-teacher schools for boys rose from 11,856 to 12,093 and their enrolment from 331,741 to 335,197, while the number of one-teacher schools for girls rose from 1,636 to 1,663 and their enrolment from 38,153 to 39,095. These figures give an average of 28 against 28 pupils per teacher in a boys' school and 24 against 23 in a girls' school. The increase in the number of one-teacher primary schools is reported to be due to the recognition of a fairly large number of lower primary schools with one teacher, as two-teacher lower primary schools are infrequently established at the initial stages of recognition.

The number of trained teachers employed in primary schools rose from 19,154 to 19,863.

During the year there were 61,132 girls in girls' schools against 57,292 in the previous year. From a comparison of the figures it appears that the increase in the number of girls in boys' schools is greater than that in the schools for girls, viz., 4,810 in the former as against 3,840 in the latter. This demonstrates an increasing acceptance of co-education on the part of parents at the primary stage.

Compulsory education inaugurated in 1927-28 continues in the Jamhore Union in the district of Gaya, but it is still confined to two managed lower primary schools in the village. The number on the rolls was 170 against 169 last year. In the Ranchi municipality also primary education for boys continues to be compulsory. The percentage of attendance was 90.5 against 92.24 in the previous year, the decrease being due chiefly to the increase in the percentage of pupils absent on account of illness or other causes. Out of 2,958 boys of compulsory age, 2,945 attended schools.

The extension of the Compulsory Primary Education Act to all municipalities was under the consideration of Government and it was decided to introduce compulsion in all municipalities situated at district headquarters. Schemes within the prescribed financial limits were invited from those municipalities, Government offering to bear the whole additional cost involved. A provision of Rs. 1,68,750 recurring and Rs. 1,34,550 non-recurring for the purpose was made in the budget for 1939-40. The ultimate additional cost involved is estimated to be Rs. 2,27,550 recurring and Rs. 1,34,550 non-recurring.

The number of night schools rose from 120 to 130 and that of their pupils from 3,335 to 3,465. The number of school post offices fell from 164 to 161.

Basic Education.

An important development during the year was the decision to introduce as an experimental measure the basic education scheme or education through handicrafts outlined by the All-India Board of Basic Education in a compact area in the Champaran district. The scheme was entrusted to the Provincial Basic Education Board which was set up under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Education to organise basic education in the province. Basic training classes were opened in the Patna Training School in September 1938 to train the requisite number of teachers for the basic schools to be opened.

Mass Education.

The most outstanding event of the year was the inauguration by the Hon'ble Minister for Education on the 26th April, 1938, of the Mass Literacy Movement by means of an appeal to the teachers and students of Bihar to devote the summer vacation to the liquidation of illiteracy and ignorance among the masses. This appeal met with the most gratifying response. The first or voluntary phase of the campaign lasted from May till October 1938 and during this period no financial aid was given by the Government, the expenditure being met by contributions from local bodies and private individuals. All the preliminary executive work was done by an organising committee. The course of instruction was of six weeks' duration and the instruction was given through charts and primers based upon the rapid method. The campaign entered in its second phase in November, 1938, when in addition to the general work being done all over the province, an intensive scheme for one thana in each district and in the two subdivisions of Simdega and Banka was inaugurated.

With the launching of the intensive campaign the movement had to be given a more complete organisation and funds. and the provincial Government set up a Mass Literacy Committee consisting of 22 members under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Minister for Education and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 80,000 for Mass Literacy work during the remaining months of the year. In addition to this Committee, district, subdivisional, thana and village centre committees were constituted. The organisation aimed at making literate within six months all educable illiterate male adults within the intensive area between the ages of 15 to 40. Nor was the expansion of literacy amongst women neglected, though,

in this the Committee was handicapped by the shortage of lady workers and the prevalence of ' purdah '.

Wherever possible, the Department placed one sub-inspector of schools in charge of the thana selected for the intensive work. At the end of three months, an examination in reading, writing and arithmetic was held at the centres, and in some cases honoraria were paid to teachers on the basis of the results. Despite several difficulties and handicaps, thanks to the voluntary co-operation of teachers, students, jail authorities, industrialists, officers of the Executive, Police and nation-building departments of Government and above all the public, it is calculated that about 4½ lakhs of men and women were made literate during the first year of the campaign at a negligible cost, a result which holds high promise for the future.

One incidental achievement of the movement was that it helped the evolution of a common language as the Hindustani primers printed in both the scripts Hindi and Urdu were in use at the centres.

Post-literacy work was started with a view to stabilise the progress made with the mass literacy campaign. Measures in this direction included the publication of a fortnightly news-sheet " Roshni ", the supply of a graded series of readers to literacy centres, the supply of reading materials for new literates by such methods as the opening of " libraries on wheels " and " circulating libraries " and the inauguration of a scheme for establishing 4,000 village libraries with 200 Hindi and Urdu booklets on topics of every day importance.

Secondary Education.

During the year the number of high schools and middle schools rose from 1,050 with 177,472 pupils to 1,140 with 194,110 pupils, while the direct expenditure rose from Rs. 46,98,258 to Rs. 49,86,425. One of the new high schools was a girls' school. The increasing demand for high school education already noticeable has been accelerated by the creation of special facilities for the educationally backward communities and girls. The number of middle English schools managed by local bodies or aided either by Government or by local bodies rose from 603 to 660, but that of middle vernacular schools managed or aided by local bodies fell from 85 to 68. The Patna district board converted all its middle vernacular schools into middle English schools during the year. The tendency towards this conversion, which is accelerated by the somewhat greater expansiveness of middle vernacular schools as compared with the middle

English schools, is lowering the standard of proficiency in the mother tongue. It is satisfactory to note that as many as 7 high schools and 17 middle schools found it possible to widen the range of instruction by introducing vocational subjects such as agriculture, tailoring, spinning, weaving, soap-making and carpentry.

A reform of considerable and far reaching importance was introduced when the medium of instruction was changed over from English to the pupils' mother tongue in class VIII of all high schools, with effect from January 1939. As in the case of every new scheme in the transition period, the multilingual schools are faced with difficulties in the way of adjustment of time-tables, staff and the medium of instruction for non-language subjects, which they are gradually solving in the light of experience.

Private tuition in schools was the subject of comment by the Corruption Enquiry Committee. This can only be eliminated by the improvement in the standard and quality of teaching in the schools and by paying special attention to the more backward pupils in the classes.

Co-education is gaining in popularity. The number of girls attending high schools and middle schools for Indian boys rose from 127 to 165 and 1,593 to 2,106 respectively.

The Board of Secondary Education aided 136 schools, including 11 schools for girls, as against 123, including 10 schools for girls, in the previous year.

Successful attempts were made in some high schools to provide light midday lunches to their pupils and it is hoped that this practice will extend to other institutions.

Vocational Training.

The progress in vocational training or education was maintained. The number of technical, trade and vocational schools, including *ayurvedic* and *tibbi* schools at Patna, rose from 62 to 66 and that of their pupils from 3,965 to 4,305 and their expenditure from Rs. 6,81,354 to Rs. 7,11,348.

University And Collegiate Education.

His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett continued to be Chancellor of the University during the year except for four months when he went over to act as Governor of the United Provinces. During the interregnum His Excellency Sir Thomas Alexander Stewart acted as Chancellor. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha continued to guide the affairs of the University as Vice-Chancellor.

The facilities for instruction have been considerably increased by the admission of new colleges and of existing colleges in new subjects. Two new colleges, viz., the Rajendra College at Chapra and the Mithila College at Darbhanga, were admitted up to the I. A. standard in English, History, Logic, Persian, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Principal Urdu, Principal Hindi, Elementary Economics and Public Administration and Vernaculars (Hindi, Urdu and Bengali). The Patna College was admitted to the B. A. Honours and M. A. standards in Urdu as a principal subject and the D. J. College up to the I. A. standard in Hindi as a principal subject. The results of the various University examinations held during the year were on the whole satisfactory. The number of degree colleges remained stationary at 6, but there was an increase in the number of intermediate colleges from 3 to 5. The number of students on the roll increased from 4,120 to 4,461 and the direct expenditure from Rs. 10,77,404 to Rs. 11,12,079.

The professional colleges in the province, namely, the Patna Law College, the Patna Training College, the Bihar College of Engineering, the Prince of Wales Medical College and the Bihar Veterinary College, continued to show progress.

The many sided activities of the colleges, in the literary, social and athletic spheres and in particular the enthusiasm displayed by the students and the staff in the 'Mass Literacy Campaign', gave cause for satisfaction.

Oriental Studies.

The number of recognised Sanskrit *tols* rose from 307 with 10,637 pupils to 315 with 11,310 pupils. The number of recognised Sanskrit primary schools rose from 761 to 790 but that of their pupils fell from 28,251 to 24,767.

The number of recognised *madrasas* rose from 37 to 41 and that of their pupils from 3,109 to 3,622. The results of the examinations held by the Sanskrit Council and the Madrasa Examination Board appear to have been satisfactory.

The net expenditure from public funds on Sanskrit education other than that given in arts colleges and secondary schools, rose from Rs. 87,690 to Rs. 89,085. These figures exclude the expenditure on primary Sanskrit schools, which fell from Rs. 1,09,458 to Rs. 1,06,532. With the sum of Rs. 27,333 at its disposal for grants-in-aid the Sanskrit Association aided 175 *tols* against 174 last year. An additional sum of Rs. 5,000 was provided for new and increased grants to deserving *tols*, while a sum of Rs. 19,906

was placed at the disposal of the Madrasa Examination Board for grants-in-aid to *madrasas* and the Board aided 32 *madrasas* during the year. An additional grant of Rs. 2,000 was provided in the budget for 1939-40 for aid to the *madrasas*.

Training Of Masters.

The number of Government secondary training schools remained four, one at each of the divisional headquarters. The total number of pupils rose from 216 to 238 excluding 60 in the Basic Training Class at Patna. In view of the decision of Government to convert the Patna Training School into a Basic Training School with effect from session 1939-40, the first year students of that school were distributed amongst the three other training schools. The number of admissions into the training schools at Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Ranchi, respectively, was 39, 67 and 71.

The number of elementary training schools rose from 58 to 60, two unaided schools having been recognised during the year. The number of those managed by Government remained 55. The number of pupils in the non-Government un-aided schools rose from 11 to 65 but in the Government schools fell from 1,098 to 1,093. In addition to these, there were two aided schools in the Chota Nagpur Division in which the roll rose from 44 to 63.

The direct expenditure on all the schools, secondary as well as elementary, whether maintained or aided by Government, was Rs. 2,15,443 of which Rs. 2,09,131 came from Government funds against Rs. 2,15,268 and Rs. 2,10,213 respectively last year.

The quality of work in the elementary training schools continued to improve, particularly in the schools provided with graduate teachers trained in the primary section of the Patna Training College. The number of masters trained in elementary training schools fell from 926 in 1937-38 to 911 in 1938-39, while the number of trained masters employed in primary schools for boys and girls increased from 18,663 to 19,349. The number of female teachers trained during the year was 80 against 104 in the previous year.

The basic education scheme for teachers envisages a three-year course of training. In Bihar, however, the course is being covered in two years—one year of preliminary training to qualify the teachers to take the first two grades of basic schools, and a second year of final training for teachership in a full-fledged seven-year basic school. During the year an emergency six months' training course was arranged for in the Patna Training School in

order that the actual experimental work in the Brindaban area of Champaran might be inaugurated as quickly as possible.

Female Education.

Female education made considerable progress during the year. I.A. classes were opened in the Bankipore Girls' High School. The number of high schools for girls rose from 11 to 12 with an increase of 419 in the number of pupils attending them. The number of middle schools rose from 28 to 40, the first Urdu middle English school for girls being opened at Sasaram. The number of primary schools rose from 2,008 to 2,067 with an increase in the number of pupils from 59,307 to 63,067.

The direct expenditure on girls' education rose from Rs. 8,15,007 to Rs. 8,71,563. The special grant to municipalities for girls' education was increased from Rs. 15,750 to Rs. 30,000 and 20 additional scholarships were created for award for college education. It is satisfactory to find that slowly but steadily untrained teachers are being replaced by trained ones.

There were three training classes for women managed by Government and six controlled by missions but aided by Government. All prepare students for the junior vernacular teachers' certificate examination and three have opened senior vernacular teachers' training classes as well. The number of students attending these classes rose from 277 to 295 and the direct expenditure from Rs. 57,810 to Rs. 66,549.

The number of technical, industrial and agricultural schools for girls rose from 10 to 13, the number of their pupils from 431 to 527 and the direct expenditure from Government funds from Rs. 4,241 to Rs. 11,442.

The number of *atus* (schools) increased from 34 to 40 and the number of their pupils from 945 to 1,093. The number of peripatetic classes rose from 12 to 17, and the number of pupils reading in them from 219 to 374. The number of central gathering classes remained 2 but their roll number fell from 76 to 60.

The Girl Guides movement made satisfactory progress during the year.

Bihar Council Of Women.

The activities of the Bihar Council of Women were guided throughout the year 1938-39 by its new president, Lady Hallett. Her appeal to women to play their part in the drive against illiteracy had good response. The Council and its members did much to spread the literacy movement among women. Good progress was recorded in the various branches of the Council's work. The

Education Sub-Committee visited a number of schools, both upper and lower primary, during the year and helped them with useful advice and distributed books and writing materials to the various institutions. The Hospital Committee, the Blind School Committee, the Deaf and Dumb School Committee all did their work well.

Education Of Europeans And Anglo-Indians.

The number of schools for Anglo-Indians and Europeans remained 17. Four of these were secondary (two for boys and two for girls) and 13 elementary (three for boys and ten for girls). The total number of pupils rose from 1,328 to 1,372. The direct expenditure fell from Rs. 2,14,641 to Rs. 2,13,666, but the indirect expenditure rose from Rs. 1,43,348 to Rs. 1,44,176. The total number of teachers rose from 98 to 102 and that of trained teachers from 70 to 73. No candidates from European schools were presented at the annual Matriculation Examination but two girls were sent up for the supplementary examination in June 1938, both of whom were successful. 20 out of 29 candidates passed the Cambridge School Certificate Examination.

The Joint Board for Anglo-Indian and European Education for the provinces of Bihar and Orissa met once during the year. The Inter-Provincial Board for Anglo-Indian and European Education met in Bombay on the 6th February 1939. Its resolutions included proposals to extend the syllabus of the Cambridge Junior Certificate Examination so as to include a wider range of practical subjects; to request the Inter-University Board to examine the position of the Cambridge School Certificate Examinations in relation to the University degree courses; and to prepare a more suitable scheme of Indian History teaching in European schools.

Education Of Muslims.

The education of Muslims made satisfactory progress at all stages. The number of Muslim pupils under instruction in the province rose from 156,448 to 165,439. The percentage of Muslim pupils to the total number of pupils was 14.54 as compared with the percentage of Muslims to the total population of 12.79. These figures show that the Muslims still remain above the general educational level of the province, though, if they are to maintain it, they should make special efforts in the matter of female education. The number of recognised primary Urdu schools rose during the year by 42 and there was a corresponding increase of 3,898 in their pupils. The number of Muslim pupils in the middle stages rose from 7,536 to 8,260, in the high school stage from 5,136 to 5,682 and in colleges from 644 to 707.

All Momin students reading in colleges were granted free studentships and besides 147 special scholarships were awarded to them at a cost of Rs. 7,000. A grant of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned for scholarships to deserving students of educationally backward classes among Muslims other than Momins.

Education Of Aborigines And Harijans.

The number of Christian aborigines under instruction rose from 37,321 to 42,704 and that of other aborigines, including those professing Hindu religion, from 51,112 to 58,939. For the expansion of primary education among the aborigines a grant of Rs. 10,000 was made by the Government during the year.

The number of children of scheduled castes under instruction rose from 56,667 to 65,903 and the number of primary schools specially meant for these castes from 187 with 6,026 pupils to 207 with 6,904 pupils. Special facilities were granted for the education of these castes by offering them special scholarships, exempting them from the payment of admission fees and by enforcing rigidly the rule for the grant of free-studentships in schools and colleges. The total sum spent from public funds for the special benefit of the scheduled castes was Rs. 44,450 against Rs. 29,540 last year, while the total sum spent from Government funds specially for the benefit of the aborigines was Rs. 63,868 against Rs. 51,310 last year.

Education Of Criminal Tribes.

The members of the criminal tribes in the province now number 4,836. The number of their children at school rose from 278 to 359, including 10 in the middle stage. The number of special schools for these pupils rose from 6 to 8, two in Tirhut, four in Bhagalpur and two in Chota Nagpur.

Factory Schools.

The number of factory schools rose from 50 to 52. The industrial undertakings concerned employed 1,677 boys and 180 girls. The rolls include 2,515 boys and 163 girls who are either employed or are children of employees, besides 314 other boys and 41 other girls. The expenditure on these schools rose from Rs. 25,795 to Rs. 28,407.

Education Of Defectives.

The number of pupils at the Ranchi and the Patna Blind schools was 57 and 38, respectively. These two schools received from Government recurring grants of Rs. 2,924 and Rs. 1,920, respectively. The Shahabad district board maintains a pupil at the Blind School at Patna at a cost of Rs. 7 a month, while a few

blind pupils are supported by Government at the Bihar National College at Patna by the grant of suitable scholarships.

There were 18 pupils at the Deaf and Dumb School at Patna which received a grant of Rs. 1,200 from Government, while the school at Ranchi had 15 pupils on the roll. A number of district boards maintained defective children at various institutions. There were 304 pupils at the school attached to the leper asylum at Purulia which received from Government a grant of Rs. 720.

Hazaribagh Reformatory School.

The number of boys in the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh rose from 236 to 245, including 117 from Bihar, 98 from Bengal, 17 from Assam and 12 from Orissa, and one from the Baramba State in Orissa. The gross expenditure on the school was Rs. 73,353. The number of boys under surveillance rose from 77 to 100, of whom 88 were reported to have lived an honest life, six were reconvicted and six remained untraced.

The number of boys in the artisan classes attached to the school for outside boys rose from 32 to 44. Eight boys who completed the three years' course were granted certificates. Government have since sanctioned the replacement of the three years' course by a five years' industrial diploma course.

Unrecognised Institution.

The number of unrecognised institutions rose from 2,328 to 2,451 and the number of pupils in them from 70,726 to 76,395.

Miscellaneous.

The number of recognised hostels rose from 591 to 612 and the number of boarders residing in them from 22,391 to 22,888, but their expenditure fell from Rs. 3,79,295 to Rs. 3,66,116. The number of hostels under the Students' Residence Committee at Patna fell from 15 to 13. The average number of boarders in all the hostels under the Committee rose from 281 to 305 and that in hostels managed or aided by Government from 189 to 196. The total expenditure on hostels was Rs. 19,427, including Rs. 10,497 from Government funds.

The Education Re-organization Committee, the Education Code Revision Committee and the Hindustani Committee continued their labours during the year.

The Boy Scouts (including the Hindustani Boy Scouts), Girl Guides and Bratachari Movements made progress.

A scheme for the establishment of a military training school with a view to turn out instructors in military training for the schools and colleges in the province at an estimated cost of Rs. 53,216 recurring and Rs. 18,000 non-recurring was under the consideration of Government.

There was sporadic trouble in educational institutions over the hoisting of flags and the singing of Bandematram, leading to communal tension. Thanks to tactful handling and Government's clear pronouncement on the question, the situation did not take a more serious turn.

CHAPTER VI.

Public Health and Medical Relief.

There have been unmistakable signs of a growing consciousness of the value and significance of public health. Much more attention was paid to the problems of rural sanitation and medical relief by the popular Government and many improvements were effected in these directions during the year.

Vital Statistics.

The total number of births rose from 1,100,657 in the previous year to 1,116,178 in the year under review, while the total number of deaths rose from 729,454 to 763,733, the increase being chiefly due to the occurrence of a comparatively larger number of deaths from fevers. The excess of birth over death rate was 10.9 as compared with 11.5 in the previous year. Registration of vital occurrences is compulsory only in municipal areas. A certain percentage of the reported vital occurrences was investigated and verified by the officers of the Public Health Department. The reporting agency for vital occurrences, both in municipal and rural areas, is the police though lately the Health Officers of some of the bigger municipalities have been appointed as Registrars of Births and Deaths and the responsibility of collection and verification of vital occurrences has been transferred to them. This measure has brought about a distinct improvement in the registration of vital statistics in the municipal areas concerned.

The highest birth rate (46.8) was recorded in the Gaya district and the lowest birth-rate (25.3) in the district of Singhbhum.

The following table gives comparative incidence of the chief diseases :—

—	Urban.		Rural.		Combined.	
	Ten years average.	1938.	Ten years average.	1938.	Ten years average.	1938.
Cholera ...	0·7	0·2	1·5	0·5	1·5	0·4
Smallpox ...	0·5	0·4	0·4	0·2	0·4	0·2
Plague ...	0·05	0·07	0·1	0·05	0·1	0·05
Fevers ...	6·6	6·6	17·7	19·5	17·2	19·0
Dysentery and diarrhoea.	0·6	0·7	0·1	0·09	0·1	0·1
Respiratory diseases	0·5	0·5	0·07	0·07	0·09	0·09
Injuries ...	0·5	0·5	0·3	0·3	0·3	0·3
All other causes ...	4·3	4·5	3·3	3·3	3·4	3·4
Total ...	13·8	13·5	23·5	24·0	23·1	23·6

Cholera.

The total number of deaths from cholera rose from 13,949 in the previous year to 14,750 during the year though the death rate from the disease remained the same, viz., 0.4 per mille of population. The districts of Champaran and Darbhanga and the towns of Bettiah and Roserah recorded the highest number of deaths.

To assist the local bodies in combating the disease, Government deputed 24 doctors on epidemic duty to the infected areas and disinfectants and cholera vaccine were distributed by the Public Health Department. The number of doses of cholera vaccine issued during the year was 593,375 as against 640,000 during the previous year. Anti-cholera inoculation has now become a popular preventive measure and the faith of the public in its efficacy is on the increase.

As a result of its extensive use during the last 9 years cholera-phage has now fully established its utility both as a curative and as a prophylactic agent. It is now definitely found that its use as a curative agent gives the best results when used in the early stage of the attack and as a prophylactic agent it invariably cuts short the epidemics provided immediate steps are taken to phage the total population exposed to infection. 160,350 phials of cholera-phage were prepared during the year in the Bacteriophage Laboratory at Patna and 119,402 phials were distributed to various towns and districts of the province.

Small-pox.

The total number of deaths from small-pox decreased from 7,485 in the previous year to 5,977 during the year and the death rate was the same as last year, viz., 0.2 per mille of population. The low death rate is attributable to the immunity conferred by fairly extensive vaccination and revaccination. The highest death rate was registered in the districts of Palamau, Gaya and Saran. Among the towns, Gaya, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr reported the highest death rates. 1,500,764 vaccination operations were performed in the province during the year, of which 505,969 were cases of revaccination. Primary vaccination is compulsory in all the municipal towns and also in the rural areas of nine districts. The control of vaccination has been transferred to those local bodies which have initiated health organisation schemes and the health officers of these districts have been appointed Superintendents of Vaccination. Although the total annual vaccination operations now amount to over a million and a half, the proportion of vaccinated persons in the province still remains far below the figure necessary to prevent epidemic outbreaks.

Plague.

The number of deaths from plague rose from 1,470 in the previous year to 1,838 during the year. The death rate was the same as in the previous year, viz., 0.08 per thousand of population. Though the incidence of plague has greatly declined in the province in recent years, the disease still persists in some of the districts. The district of Saran recorded the highest death rate followed by Muzaffarpur and Champaran. The town of Bettiah also remained infected almost throughout the year. To combat the disease a plague hospital was opened in January 1938 at Bettiah and a number of cases were treated with plague serum under Dr. Wagle of the Haffkine Institute of Bombay at the instance of the Public Health Department. It is interesting to note that deaths among the cases treated with serum were only about 27 per cent against over 56 per cent among the control cases treated with Iodine.

Dysentery And Diarrhoea.

There were 3,725 deaths from this group of diseases as against 4,006 deaths in the previous year. The towns which recorded the highest death rates were Lalganj (2.6), Colgong (2.4), Gaya (2.0) and Revelganj (1.9). The fact that the highest number of deaths occur from these diseases usually during the monsoon months demonstrates that the incidence of these diseases as well as other bowel diseases is closely associated with the nature of conservancy service and the state of water-supply.

Malaria.

The high incidence of malaria during the year under review is reflected in the increased number of deaths from fevers which were 615,966 as against 584,873 in the previous year. A fact which is sometimes not fully realised is that over 80 per cent of the total deaths in the province is annually attributed to "fevers" and although a large number of deaths from other diseases in which fever is a prominent symptom are included under this group, it is believed that a large proportion of them is caused by malaria.

Kala-Azar.

92,000 cases of Kala-azar were treated in the hospitals and dispensaries in 1937 and out of this 83,961 cases were treated in the districts of North Bihar. As it was obvious that the incidence of the disease was high in these areas, Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 6,200 for establishing five Kala-azar treatment centres in North Bihar, viz., two in the Kishanganj subdivision in the district of Purnea and one in each of the districts of Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur.

Tuberculosis. The number of persons treated for this disease in hospitals and dispensaries of the province was 24,753 as against 21,492 in the previous year. A great drive against the disease was made during the year through the agency of King George V Tuberculosis Association, branches of which now exist all over the province. Sixteen anti-tuberculosis clinics functioned during the year. Besides examination and diagnosis of patients complaining of chest diseases by honorary physicians attached to the clinics, visits were made to affected areas and suspected cases were kept under observation. The Association secured facilities for free sputum examination of the clinic patients at sadr hospital laboratories and X'Ray examination at a reduced rate. Active propaganda through leaflets was undertaken to educate the general public against the dangers of tuberculosis infection and necessary preventive and curative directions were given.

Leprosy. There were 44 outdoor leper clinics in the year against 41 in the previous year. At these clinics 9,598 patients were treated during the year against 17,967 in the previous year. The number of leper asylums in the province remained the same, i.e. seven as in the previous year. In addition to the out-patients treated at the above-mentioned outdoor clinics, 2,223 in-patients and 2,843 out-patients were treated in these asylums during the year against 2,415 in-patients, 2,843 out-patients in the previous year. Marked improvement was observed in those cases which were treated early and regularly but early cases rarely attend the clinics in some places while advanced cases are pre-dominant. Persons were instructed by lectures and posters regarding the benefit of the treatment and the precautions they should observe in their own interest and of the general public.

In order to keep in touch with the old patients and discover new ones a survey was carried out by the staff of the Saldaha Leper Colony in the district of Santal Parganas through weekly visits to villages. Thirty-three new cases were found and 92 old patients urged to continue treatment. In all 33 villages were surveyed. The Purulia Leper Home and Asylum showed marked progress in its activities. The outstanding feature was the great increase in the number of children who came for treatment. There were 103 leper children in residence and in the first 6 months of 1938 no less than 33 children offered for curative treatment at the out-patient clinic.

Health Propaganda And Special Measures. The Public Health Bureau carried on public health propaganda as in the previous year. A large number of pamphlets and leaflets were issued from time to time to the local bodies for distribution among the visitors at the fairs and festivals in the province. Pictorial health posters, models and charts were sent out to be exhibited at the fairs and festivals. Special precautions, as usual, were taken to enforce sanitary measures for the control of epidemic diseases on the occasion of important fairs and festivals. The Red Cross Health Museum housed in the Patna Museum continued to attract a large number of visitors from all parts of the province. 153,855 persons as against 143,082 in the previous year visited the Museum. Of these 23,755 persons visited the Museum on one single day on the occasion of the Sonepur Fair.

School Hygiene. 13,403 boys and 1,460 girls were examined during the year. 39.7 per cent of boys and 72.87 per cent of girls were found to be suffering from various forms of ailments such as enlarged tonsils, pyrrhoea and dental caries, errors of refraction, malnutrition, etc. Major defects of eye and heart and pulmonary tuberculosis were also noticed in a few cases. As usual, the particular defects from which the children were suffering were brought to the notice of parents and guardians. Without sincere co-operation of the latter no appreciable improvement in the health of students of school-going age can be effected, and in view of the fact how essential it is, it should continue to receive special attention.

Public Health Laboratory. During the year 3,640 samples were examined chemically and bacteriologically as compared to 2,905 of the previous year. Of these four samples were received from private bodies. 50 samples of *ghee* received from various districts were analysed for experimental purposes. Besides 1,331 samples of water were examined bacteriologically. 2,284 samples of foodstuffs, 867 samples of *ghee*, 903 samples of mustard oil, 140 samples of sweetmeats, 79 samples of milk, 222 samples of *atta* and 73 samples of other articles were chemically examined and analysed. In view of the problem of food adulteration such examination assumes great importance. Of the samples of *ghee* analysed under the Food Adulteration Act, 342 or 41.86 per cent were found below the standard or adultered as against 52.87 per cent of the previous year, while of the samples of mustard oil 200 or 22.15 per cent were found below the standard or adulterated as against 12.98 per cent of the previous year. Of the samples of sweetmeats

74 or 52.86 per cent were found to have been made of adulterated *ghee* or oil as against 69.29 per cent of the previous year. Of the samples of milk, 39 or 49.11 per cent were found to be adulterated as against 65.71 per cent. 72 prosecutions were instituted under the Food Adulteration Act, of which 50 ended in conviction.

Nutrition Research.

Increased attention was paid during the year to problems connected with nutrition. A nutrition research scheme was sanctioned by Government at the beginning of April 1938 and field work was started about the middle of the year. The object of the scheme is to suggest an adequate and balanced diet of a minimum cost and to advise on the nutritive value of each kind of foodstuff usually consumed by the people of Bihar. During the year under review a good deal of useful work was done by the Nutrition Officer and his staff. A diet survey was carried out in certain college hostels and also among 200 families in different parts of Jamshedpur and over 150 aboriginal families in the district of Santal Parganas. One of the important deficiency noticed during the survey was the lack of green leafy vegetables in the dietary irrespective of the economic status of the respective bread-winners or 'earners'. This defect could easily be remedied if the house-holders took to maintaining a modest kitchen garden consisting of a few creepers and plants like *kaddu, kohra, gandhari or tharia sag*, etc. The lack of sufficient animal protein (milk, eggs, meat or fish) was also noticeable. It is quite understandable that lowest income groups (up to annas 0-12-0, Re. 1 or Rs. 1-8-0 daily) could not afford to consume enough of these costly edibles but one fails to account for their non-inclusion in adequate amount in the highest income group (over Rs. 3 per day). Proper adjustment of the food budget in the light of modern knowledge can only be possible if the people are enlightened on the advantages of healthy food habits. Of the children examined 13.9 per cent were found malnourished.

Jharia Mines Board Of Health.

The Jharia Mines Board of Health controls the sanitation of Jharia and the neighbouring mining fields which extend over an area of 787 square miles and cover the whole of the Dhanbad subdivision with the exception of the Dhanbad municipality and serves a population of well over half a million. Eight more collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board mains, thus bringing the total number of the connected collieries to 200. Collieries not yet linked up with the Jharia Water Board Supply were served with notices requiring them to link themselves up with

the Jharia Water Board mains, because it was thought necessary to do so in the interest of other collieries.

The drainage scheme in Jharia continued to be in full functioning order during the year and steps were taken to construct road-side drains in Poddar Kulhi and Jharia.

A five-year housing programme of the Board introduced in 1936 remained in force. Licenses for 29.16 dwelling houses were issued during the year and of these 27,167 licenses were issued for permanent structures.

The total number of births during the year was 14,736 giving a birth rate of 27.21 as against 27.56 of the previous year, while the total number of deaths was 8,847 recording a death rate of 16.34 as against 15.50 of the preceding year. The death rate rose by 0.84 due to the increase in the number of deaths from malaria, dysentery, diarrhoea and cholera. The infant mortality rate was reported to be 115 as compared with 92 in the previous year.

The work in connection with maternity and child welfare scheme was continued during the year and the whole area continued to be divided in three circles and served by qualified health visitors. A number of trained midwives and *dais* were also employed on this work.

Medical Institutions.

The year witnessed an all-round increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries. A feature was the introduction of a scheme for subsidizing doctors in rural areas. The number of hospitals and dispensaries at the beginning of the year was 600. Twenty-four new dispensaries were opened, including a travelling motor dispensary. Of these two were closed and one each of class VI and class VII was transferred to class V(*ii*) and class III, respectively. The year thus closed with 620 dispensaries, 516 rural and 104 urban.

The total number of patients treated for all diseases in all classes of hospitals and dispensaries increased from 7,502,226 to 8,300,126 during the year. The total bed capacity of the hospitals also increased from 3,704 to 4,198 for men and from 1,944 to 2,275 for women. In all 411,478 surgical operations were performed against 389,045 in the previous year, of which 97.91 were successful and cured the patients as against 93.65 in the previous year. There were 6,628 deaths from various diseases in the hospitals and dispensaries of the province against 6,144 in the previous

year. The total expenditure incurred by Government over the maintenance and supervision of medical institutions was Rs. 27,20,519 during the year.

With a view to bringing medical treatment to the very door of the people in the rural areas, a scheme of subsidizing doctors in these areas was sanctioned by Government and introduced by local bodies during the year. The scheme gained immense popularity and many district boards started subsidised dispensaries to provide for medical facilities in remote rural areas.

Medical Aid To Women.

The hospitals for women at Patna, Barh, Gaya, Ranchi, Monghyr, Bettiah, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh and Chakradharpur were maintained as previously and did useful work. In almost all cases women's wards were attached to the general hospitals and at places even separate arrangements existed for the distribution of medicines. Competent lady doctors are employed at most of the Sadr and subdivisional hospitals.

The Bihar Maternity and Child Welfare Society continued to render useful service. Eight centres started by the Society progressed satisfactorily. The Society made contributions to the various centres which also received financial help in the shape of subsidies from the local bodies concerned. Seventeen Maternity and Child Welfare Centres functioned during the year in the province and of these 13 were located in the urban and two in the rural areas. Seven health visitors, including one maternity supervisor, entertained by Government, 80 trained midwives and 72 trained indigenous *dais* were employed throughout the province. Of these 32 trained midwives and 23 trained *dais* worked in the rural areas. Over and above these, the industrial areas under the Jharia Mines Board of Health and Tata Iron and Steel Company maintained their own Maternity and Child Welfare organisations.

Medical Education.

The Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna, entered on its fourteenth session during the year. Seventy-eight applications were received for admission into the college, of whom 43 candidates were admitted to the First Year class of the College including two girl students. Of the 22 students who appeared for the Final M.B.B.S. Examination, 12 were successful. Various departments of the College increased their usefulness by the addition of most up-to-date instruments and appliances to their laboratories.

In the Darbhanga Medical School 45 male and 3 female students were admitted to the First Year Class during the year.

Eighty-two appeared for the Final examination of whom 46 were successful. 230 students were taught in the Licentiate Class during the year.

Mental Hospitals.

The Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi continues to receive patients from the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The allocation of beds to the Provinces being the same as in the previous year, viz., Bengal 75 per cent, Bihar 20 per cent and Orissa 5 per cent. The sanctioned accommodation of the hospital, including the emergency beds was the same as in the previous year, viz., men 1,108, and women 272, making a total of 1,380. The total admission during the year was 135 men and 40 women patients. The following is the ratio per cent of cases recovered to total admissions for the year 1938 and the two previous years :—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1938	28·15	27·50	28·00
1937	27·87	31·26	28·57
1936	21·15	25·58	23·42

The Superintendent emphasizes the advantages of early treatment of mental diseases. During the year 1938, 175 patients were admitted into the hospital for treatment, majority of whom were old chronic cases for whom nothing could be done but the palliative treatment with no hope of recovery. Mental disease is as much curable as a general disease in its early stage. Those hospitals in the west which are fortunate enough to receive early cases for treatment, achieve 70 per cent recovery in their cases and it is possible to achieve this percentage in Indian hospitals if cases were brought for treatment in their early stages.

As usual, modern methods of treatment are followed in the institution, Occupational Therapy taking a prominent place.

A new feature was the introduction of remedial exercises on the lines of Margaret-Morris Movement as practised in several modern mental institutions in England. The physical exercises in Margaret-Morris Movement classes are set to Schubert marches and Waltzes which are played either on piano or on gramophone records. However, in Mental Hospitals, where it is more important to get a response from patients than to educate their musical taste, any music is beneficial which appeals to them. In

mental patients the participation in such exercises provides a strong mental stimulus sustaining the patients' interest when treatment has to be continued over a long period and makes co-operation between patients habitual. The knowledge that they are a part of a group and not separate units tends to take their minds off their troubles and help the self-consciousness to forget themselves. The Bratachari Movement, which has many points *in common with the Margaret-Morris School of dancing, was introduced in this hospital. Ten attendants have to be trained in the Bratachari Movement and it is proposed to hold regular remedial classes under this trained staff.*

The Ranchi European Mental Hospital continues to receive patients from Assam, Bihar, Bengal, Baluchistan, the Central Provinces and Berar, the North-West Frontier Province, Orissa, the Punjab and the United Provinces. Patients from the Indian States and the French Settlement of Chandernagore are also eligible for admission. Subject to certain conditions, it was decided during the year to make 10 beds available for Indian paying-patients of European habits in the Hospital. The total number admitted during the year was 65 (males 34, females 31) as compared with 46 (males 21, females 25) in the previous year. The total population of the hospital for the year was 316 (148 men and 168 women) as compared with 275 (127 men and 148 women) in the previous year.

The ratio per cent of cases discharged as "cured" and "improved" to direct admissions during the year was 42.88 cured and 3.90 improved as against 31.85 and 8.69, respectively in the previous year.

All modern methods of treatment were practised in this institution. Of the newer methods of treatment, 'convulsion therapy' yielded fairly successful results.

The total expenditure over the European Mental Hospital was Rs. 4,30,718 as compared with Rs. 4,29,795 and over the Indian Mental Hospital Rs. 4,63,509-2-1 as compared with Rs. 4,83,678-5-4 in the previous year.

Itki Sanatorium.

During the year 233 applications were received for admission into the Itki Sanatorium of whom only 157 were admitted. The total strength of the Sanatorium was 252, including 95 cases coming on from the previous year. The analysis of cases under "Occupation" showed that of all the patients admitted, students formed the

largest number. The medical statistics showed that 82.2 per cent of cases seeking admission belonged to the advanced stage. Of the 140 cases discharged, 20 were arrested, 50 much improved, 19 improved, 39 were stationary, 1 worse and 11 died. It is impossible to expect any improvement, not to speak of full recovery, in such advanced cases within a short period. Unfortunately, about half the number of the above cases had to abandon their treatment on account of their unfavourable financial condition.

All the modern methods of treatment were adopted.

A sum of Rs. 28,410 was sanctioned by Government for building a recreation hall for the Sanatorium.

The Radium Institute.

The total number of patients treated at the Patna Radium Institute in 1938 was 2,906 against 2,875 in the previous year. Eighty-seven cases were examined but not treated as they came at a very advanced stage of their disease when nothing could be done for them or were otherwise unsuitable for radium treatment. Forty-nine cases abandoned treatment for either not obtaining the desired benefit or for other reasons. 116 cases did not show any improvement and failed to respond to treatment and 15 cases died, the latter being most extreme cases. 365 cases improved under treatment and more or less relieved of their sufferings, while 184 cases became clinically free from all signs and symptoms of their diseases and 36 were completely cured.

The fees received from the patients during the year for radium treatment amounted to Rs. 6,430.

Although several centres are now available for radium treatment throughout the country, Patna still continues to draw patients not only from all the provinces and States of India but from outside countries also such as Burma, Afghanistan and East Africa. The great majority of the cases continue to be the 'dead-wood' of other hospitals and they, therefore, do not respond to treatment. The importance of early diagnosis of cancer and early treatment has been emphasised more than once by the Superintendent of the Institute.

The Pasteur Institute.

Decentralisation of Anti-rabic treatment in the province continued. Several centres for this purpose were opened at a number of Sadr hospitals and such centres now number 11. Altogether 6,800 patients received treatment at the Institute and its subsidiary centres.

St. John Ambulance Association.

The year saw great expansion in the activities of the Bihar St. John Ambulance Association. Local centres of this Association were started at all district headquarters and six other special local centres were opened at the Darbhanga Medical School, Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna, Dhanbad-Jharia Coalfields, Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Giridih. All these centres held free instructional classes and imparted training to candidates in first aid, home nursing, hygiene, sanitation, etc., according to the prescribed syllabus. Ambulance and nursing divisions were also formed wherever possible. Efforts were also made to start some A. R. P. classes in the Province.

The membership of the Association considerably increased during the year. 4,000 persons were instructed in the various subjects and nearly 2,000 were certificated. Many students from various schools and colleges and members of the University Training Corps and Boy Scouts received the necessary training.

Eighteen Brigade Units, including Ambulance and Nursing Divisions, were formed. The services of these Divisions are available, when necessary, for public duty or any other emergency.

CHAPTER VII.

Maintenance of Peace, Administration of Justice and Jails.

Police.

For the second year in succession there was a marked increase in crime throughout the province. The police had, therefore, a difficult time during the year largely because of their preoccupation in dealing with threats of agrarian and communal troubles or actual riots of this character and industrial strikes. And this general agrarian and economic unrest may be regarded as the principal factor in the increase of crime. With the advent of the sowing season numerous disputes arose concerning the cultivation of bakasht lands in Gaya, in the Sasaram subdivision of Shahabad, in Monghyr and the bordering areas of the Patna district. In the Barahiya Tal (Monghyr) there was a long and obstinate contest between landlords and tenants attended with violence and crop-looting. Reora in the Gaya district was another storm centre.

The communal situation also deteriorated to such an extent that any trivial incident was apt to precipitate rioting.

A satisfactory feature was that the police were able to enlist the co-operation of the general public in the detection and prevention of crime. Village defence forces were formed in the areas specially affected by robberies and dacoities.

A sum of Rs. 19,689 was spent in rewards to 4,463 policemen and Rs. 7,331 to 1,701 members of the public for the assistance given to the police. 118 criminal charges were made against the police. Of these cases, 3 were declared true, 22 false, 39 dismissed, 12 convicted, 12 acquitted, 6 withdrawn and 24 were pending at the close of the year. The total number of police officers and men on whom judicial and departmental punishments were imposed was 66 and 459 against 93 and 471 respectively in the previous year. Of these, 3 officers and 49 men were dismissed, and 53 officers and 94 men preferred appeals against major punishments. In 81 cases, the orders passed were upheld, in 44 they were modified or reversed, in 2 enhanced and 20 cases were pending at the close of the year.

The total expenditure on the police force during the year was Rs. 71,50,488. The grant for construction and maintenance of

police buildings was Rs. 1,86,486 or Rs. 2,15,186 less than in the previous year. Besides Rs. 1,97,863 was allotted for the construction of buildings damaged in the earthquake of 1934.

Among the improvements effected in the police force were the spread of literacy amongst chaukidars in pursuance of the mass literacy campaign, the imparting of instruction in First Aid to all policemen at the Constables' Training School and the Police Training College, so that they may qualify for St. John Ambulance certificates and assist in the formation of ambulance units, the introduction of Khaddar for police clothing wherever possible and the enlistment of a large number of scheduled caste men into all ranks of the force.

The services of the Military Police were requisitioned in connection with industrial strikes, communal and agrarian troubles. Detachments from the Bhagalpur Military Police were deputed to Musabani and Dhanbad, from the Gurkha Military Police to Jamshedpur, Ghatshila and Dhanbad in connection with industrial strikes, to Patna and Bihar Sharif on account of communal trouble, to Gaya on account of agrarian unrest and the Mounted Military Police to Bikramganj (Shahabad) for the Bakr-Id and in connection with other agrarian, communal and industrial troubles in different places. All units maintained a high standard of efficiency and discipline. The Gurkha Military Police were honoured by the gift of a new bag-pipe by His Excellency the Governor of Bihar.

Literacy is now one of the essential conditions of recruitment to the police force. Of the 446 constables (including 53 aboriginals and three belonging to the scheduled castes) enlisted, 86.3 per cent were able to read and write well, 11.2 fairly well, while only 2.4 could neither read nor write. Training in "First Aid" was given to 144 men at the Constables' Training School, and of these 124 qualified. All the 74 cadets under training at the Police Training College passed in "First Aid".

The work of the village police was, on the whole, satisfactory and the reporting of ordinary crime was fairly prompt but a tendency to suppress information in communal and agrarian cases was noticeable and was firmly dealt with by the authorities. In Saran, the efforts of a dafadar and a chaukidar averted a riot during the Bakr-Id. In Champaran, a chaukidar managed to lure 4 Doms, absconding from the Criminal Tribal Settlement of Chauterwa, to his house where he trapped them with the help of villagers. In Monghyr, a dafadar captured an escaped prisoner

single-handed. At Ranchi, a chaukidar arrested a person who had committed a murder on the previous night and in Singhbhum another chaukidar effected the arrest of an accused in a murder case. There were a number of other cases in which chaukidars rendered valuable services in the detection of crime.

A noteworthy development was the introduction of literacy amongst chaukidars. In accordance with the Hon'ble the Prime Minister's instructions that all chaukidars below 40 should try to achieve literacy within six months, 22,000 attended their local mass literacy centres.

Revolutionary Crime.

There was only one terrorist outrage during the year. On the 14th April, Ram Singh *alias* Zamin Ali while absconding in the Pipradih Train dacoity case of the United Provinces visited Gaya along with Nikeshwar Dutta. They aroused the suspicion of a taxi-driver and when the latter refused to take them to Koderma, Ram Singh whipped out a revolver and threatened him and his cleaner. Subsequently the absconders fled towards the Brahmjoni hill and a police party located them. Ram Singh opened fire, injuring a Police Sub-Inspector. Nikeshwar was arrested next morning and Ram Singh, who escaped, was arrested later in Gonda district, United Provinces. They were convicted early in 1939, Ram Singh being sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and Nikeshwar Dutta to 4 years' rigorous imprisonment.

Crime.

Cognizable cases rose from 35,596 in the previous year to 40,128 during the year under review. The increase was mainly under offences against the person and offences against property and is attributed to agrarian and industrial unrest, failure of crops due to floods and a poor rainfall and an influx of foreign criminals. True cases of culpable homicide, rioting, dacoity, burglary, theft, cattle theft and robbery increased by 10.8, 7.5, 2.3, 12.3, 13.7, 8.5 and 10.9 per cent respectively, while murder only decreased by 7.0 per cent. The number of reported non-cognizable cases was 64,656 against 63,917 in the previous year. The increase was mainly under minor offences against the person. The value of property stolen was Rs. 15,78,931 against Rs. 21,53,628 in the previous year and of property recovered was Rs. 1,28,984 against Rs. 1,39,970.

Murder.

There were 255 cases of murder against 273 in the previous year. In 26 cases the victims were alleged to have practised witchcraft and 19 were murders for gain. 21 per cent of the cases were the outcome of

intrigue with women and 11 per cent due to revenge. In a case in Gaya, the accused, suspecting his wife's fidelity, murdered her and two other members of his family. In a case in Ranchi, the father struck his newly born son in a fit of insanity and caused his death. In the same district, a girl's paramour was done to death by his rival and an unmarried girl was murdered by her lover. In Singhbhum, the accused killed his aunt who was believed to have brought about his wife's death by witchcraft. In Jamshedpur, a Pathan stabbed another Pathan to death in a squable over the use of a water hydrant. Out of a total number of 114 cases involving 311 persons that were tried only 56 cases involving 91 persons ended in conviction.

Riots.

Riots and unlawful assemblies rose by 8.1 per cent from 698 in the previous year to 755 during the year. The increase was mostly noticeable in Bhagalpur, Santal Parganas, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Hazaribagh and Shahabad. The increase in Bhagalpur was mainly due to a series of communal riots which occurred in the town in connection with the Rath Jatra festival. In the Santal Parganas, Hazaribagh and Muzaffarpur it was due to land disputes and in Darbhanga to Kisan agitation. Industrial and agrarian unrest accounted for the increase in Shahabad. The decrease was most marked in Purnea and Manbhum. 525 cases involving 6,439 persons were tried of which 401 cases involving 3,137 persons ended in conviction and 124 cases involving 3,302 persons were acquitted. 54 riot and unlawful assembly cases were due to communal clashes and two cases to "Bitlaha" (a Santal custom of ostracism).

Dacoity.

There were 325 cases of dacoity against 259 in the previous year. The most noticeable increases occurred in the Santal Parganas, Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Manbhum, Champaran and Hazaribagh. The increase in most cases was due to the influx of outside criminals. Flying squads and other schemes were organised to combat the increase. The percentage of cases placed on trial rose from 31 to 34.4 while that of successful prosecutions fell from 68.3 to 52.6. The percentage of persons convicted was 38.7 against 46.4 in the previous year.

Robbery And Burglary.

There were 264 cases of robbery as against 235 in the previous year and 18,918 cases of burglary against 16,588 during the year. Of the former, 47 were highway robberies, 1 a train robbery, 1 a mail robbery and

1 was a robbery by administering poison. Marked increases occurred in Purnea, Shahabad, Patna and Manbhum and satisfactory decreases in Monghyr, Darbhanga and Ranchi. The increase in Purnea was due to better reporting and in Patna to the activities of certain bad characters who were suitably dealt with. The rise in Shahabad is attributed to the influx of labourers and to some extent industrial and agrarian unrest and in Manbhum was due chiefly to the economic depression. On the Bengal and North-Western Railway, an Advocate travelling in a second class compartment was relieved, at the point of a dagger, of his diamond ring and cash. The culprits were ultimately traced and convicted. The districts in which an increase in cases of burglary was reported were Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Manbhum, Santal Parganas and Champaran. Generally speaking, the increase in most districts was due to better reporting.

Theft.

True cases of ordinary theft rose from 9,501 to 11,018. Appreciable increases occurred in Purnea, Santal Parganas, Patna, Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Manbhum. In Purnea the increase was attributed more or less to the same causes as in the case of other forms of crime. 2,855 cases involving 9,898 persons were tried. Of these 89.2 per cent ended in conviction against 90.6 per cent in the previous year, and of the persons tried 44.2 per cent were convicted against 42.8 per cent in the previous year.

Offences Against Currency.

There were 19 cases of note-forgery against the same number last year. 15 cases of coining involving 22 persons ended in conviction. 4 persons were rounded up in the Champaran district while manufacturing counterfeit coins and all were convicted.

Fatalities.

There was an increase in the number of true cases of culpable homicide, the figure being 166 against 148 in the previous year while infanticides fell from 22 to 15. Cases of suicide rose from 618 to 630, the largest number being contributed by the Chota Nagpur Division. The total number of cases reported as death by accident was 13,183 of which 20 were cases of murder, 5,229 of drowning and 4,662 were due to snake-bite.

Other Crimes.

There were 241 cases of arson against 220 in the previous year. Of these 37 cases were sent up for trial and 16 ended in conviction. This form of crime was particularly prevalent in the districts of Shahabad, Bhagalpur,

Monghyr, Santal Parganas and Manbhum. Of 145 cases of mischief to animals against the same number last year, 67 were sent up for trial and 49 involving 75 persons ended in conviction. The only case of flaying goats alive ended in the conviction of the accused. There were 668 cases of swindling, including 164 of professional swindling. Of these 226 cases involving 964 persons were sent up for trial and the percentages of persons and cases convicted were respectively 28 and 90 as against 33 and 90 in the previous year. Out of 166 professional swindlers tried, 71 were convicted. There were 8 cases of note-doubling against 2 in the previous year.

Railway Crime.

True cognizable cases on the Railways rose from 1,057 to 1,133. The Bengal and North-Western Railway registered an increase of 22 cases and the East Indian Railway 54. The increase on the latter Railway was chiefly due to the increase in pick-pocketing cases. Railway accidents accounted for 382 deaths against 510 in the previous year. Besides, there were 81 cases of suicide and 3 cases of collision in which 17 persons were injured. There were 27 cases of obstruction, the most serious being the derailment of the Punjab Mail in which 2 persons were killed and 41 injured. Of the 27 cases, 5 involving 8 persons were sent up for trial, all ending in conviction.

False Cases.

As compared with the previous year, a slightly larger percentage of the persons, who brought maliciously false cases, were prosecuted and a smaller percentage of those prosecutions resulted in convictions. The number of cases declared maliciously false during the year was 1,463 against 1,203 in the previous year. The largest percentage was in Dhanbad and the smallest in Darbhanga. The percentage of awards of compensation under section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code to cases declared false after trial increased from 50 per cent in the previous year to 67.8 per cent during the year.

Surveillance.

The year closed with 24,402 persons on the police surveillance list of whom 3,193 were in jail, 2,195 were untraced and 19,014 were under surveillance. 333 persons were arrested by constables who recognised bad characters on sight. The number of arrests by picketing parties rose from 519 to 527. Results were good in Purnea, Hazaribagh, Palamau, Manbhum, Dhanbad, Patna and on the East Indian Railway where all the arrested persons were convicted although the number of arrests were few. 2,528 officers and men were

employed on town patrol duty. Burglaries in town rose from 2,767 to 2,911. The most noticeable increase was in Patna, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. Poor street lighting is one of the causes of burglary. There were 17,964 street lamps at the close of the year against 17,984 in the previous year. In addition to the regular road patrols, certain crime affected areas were given the services of temporary road patrols.

Criminal Investigation Department.

The history of 94 professional criminals were added to and 39 eliminated from the records leaving a total of 3,997. 23 references involving 24 persons from Bengal, Orissa and Delhi were dealt with. There were 4,836 registered members of criminal tribes at the close of the year belonging to ten tribes and 70 gangs as against 5,038 in the previous year. 399 members were convicted of offences under the Criminal Tribes Act or the Indian Penal Code or bound down under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code as against 428 in the previous year. The number of questioned documents increased from 103 to 143 and the Handwriting Experts gave evidence in 59 cases against 30 of the previous year. The Photographic Section prepared photographs of 136 criminals, 1,191 manuscripts and 479 finger-prints in addition to other miscellaneous work. The Finger Print Bureau examined 5,649 slips and identified 1,052 old criminals, while 8,233 new slips were placed on record and 1,804 slips eliminated thus leaving a total of 185,668. Finger Print Experts gave evidence in 392 cases of which 346 were private cases and furnished opinions on 8 cases. The Bureau continued to be self-supporting, the fees received being Rs. 26,061-5-0 and the cost of its maintenance approximately Rs. 23,400.

Motor Vehicles.

The number of motor vehicles rose during the year from 8,176, including 524 lorries and 1,168 buses, to 8,979, including 618 lorries and 1,229 buses. The amount of tax collected during the year was Rs. 5,89,215-13-6. 440 persons were injured in motor accidents as against 488 in the previous year. 87 of these proved fatal against 89 in the previous year. There were 2,455 prosecutions under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1,888 under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act and 243 under the Indian Penal Code against 2,451, 205 and 256 respectively in the previous year.

Criminal Justice.

During the year, 94,870 criminal offences were reported, of which 57,384 were offences under the Indian Penal Code and 37,486 under special and local laws, an increase of 4,823, or 9.2 per cent, and a decrease

of 3,333 or 8.2 per cent, respectively, as compared with the figures for the previous year. The number of offences reported increased in 9 districts and decreased in 7, the largest increases being in Manbhum and Shahabad. The increase in the former was due to an increase in the number of offences both under the Indian Penal Code and under special and local laws, while the increase in the latter was reported to have been due to a large number of offences under the Vaccination Act. The largest increases were in Saran and Patna.

Complaints were dismissed in 16,466 cases and the number of cases declared to be false after trial or enquiry was 1,391. These two classes together constituted 18.8 per cent of the total number of cases reported as against 17.2 per cent in the previous year.

Magisterial Courts.

At the opening of the year, 3,357 cases were pending before Magistrates. During the year, 66,084 cases were brought to trial including references under sections 347 and 349 of the Criminal Procedure Code and also cases committed to the courts of sessions. Of these 65,176 cases were disposed of, including cases committed to the courts of sessions, and 4,256 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of cases brought to trial during the year was less than the number for the previous year by 1,557. There was an increase in 8 districts and a decrease in 7. The increase was largest in Gaya, while the most conspicuous decrease was in Saran. Of the cases disposed of, the District Magistrates tried 34, Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates 54,431, Honorary Magistrates 9,279, Benches of Magistrates 214 and Special Magistrates 40. The total number of cases tried by Magistrates in exercise of special powers under section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code was 236 against 260 in the previous year. The use of special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was reported to have lightened appreciably the burden of Sessions Judges employed in districts within the partially excluded areas and enabled them to dispose of more expeditiously the civil business.

Of the total number of cases disposed of by the Magistrates, 690 were committed or referred to the courts of sessions, while 64,486 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In the latter cases 118,965 persons were accused as against 115,676 in the previous year; 53,122 or 44.7 per cent were convicted and 65,843 or 55.3 per cent were acquitted or discharged. Of the persons acquitted cases of 35,731 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. In the result the percentage of convictions in the case of persons actually tried was 63.8 as compared with 65.1 in the previous year. The number of persons whose cases were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default was the largest in Darbhanga, being 3,932 out of 6,105. Of the persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 22,341 or 28.7 per cent were convicted and 55,428 or 71.3 per cent were acquitted or discharged. Excluding the cases of 29,705 persons which were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default, the percentage of conviction was 46.5 against 46.2 in the previous year. Of the persons convicted, 1,494 were tried summarily, 1,486 by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates and eight by Honorary Magistrates. Those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment (excluding 624 persons imprisoned in default of furnishing security for good behaviour but including youthful offenders sent to a Reformatory School) numbered 11,535, to simple imprisonment 531, to fines 40,103 and to whipping 79. No sentence of solitary confinement was passed during the year as against one such sentence in the previous year. Twenty youthful offenders were sentenced to detention in the Reformatory School as against 16 in the previous year.

The number of witnesses examined in the courts of Magistrates was 189,027 as against 175,504 in the previous year. The number of witnesses discharged without examination was 48,866 or 20.5 per cent of the whole number in attendance against 21.4 per cent in the previous year. The amount paid to witnesses for expenses rose from Rs. 1,62,379 to Rs. 1,74,171.

Courts Of Sessions.

The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 690 and the number tried, including the pending cases of the previous year, 652. Of the cases tried, 494 were tried by Sessions Judges and 158 by Assistant Sessions Judges. Sessions Judges and Additional Sessions Judges spent approximately 3,015 days and Assistant Sessions Judges 733 days on criminal work against 2,763 and 714 days, respectively in the previous year.

The number of persons under trial before the courts of sessions was 3,273, being 557 more than in the previous year. Of the total number of persons tried, 1,141 were convicted, 1,149 were acquitted or discharged, while the cases of 84 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Of the persons convicted, 46 were sentenced to death, 85 were transported for life, 901 sentenced to rigorous imprisonment,

1 sentenced to simple imprisonment, 61 were fined and 7 were given the sentence of whipping.

Duration Of Sessions Cases.

The average duration of sessions trials from the date of commitment to the date of decision was 94 days against 80.9 days in the previous year. The duration was especially long in the districts of Saran (213 days), Gaya (135 days), the Santal Parganas (134 days), Palamau (125 days) and Hazaribagh (124 days). In Saran, the average duration rose from 55 to 213 days. Increases were due to the fact that there was a large number of sessions cases with prolonged trials. In Gaya, the average duration rose from 92.9 to 135 days and was due to the fact that mostly the cases were very long and contested. In the Santal Parganas, where the duration (134 days) was shorter than the previous year, no reduction could be effected due to the congestion of sessions file at Bhagalpur. In Palamau, the average duration rose from 99 to 125 days and in Hazaribagh it fell from 128 to 124 days. There was an increase in average duration in eight districts and a decrease in eight. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of cases of unusual delay of commitment, particularly of cases in which more than two months intervened between apprehension and commitment. There were 223 such cases during the year.

Jury Trials.

The number of persons tried by jury during the year was 766 and the verdict of the jury was accepted in respect of 729 persons. In respect of 37 persons references were made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Opinions on the working of the jury system were, as usual, divided. The High Court made recommendations to the Provincial Government for improving the working of the jury system and suggested an early revision of the existing jury lists.

The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,452. In the cases of 687 persons the Sessions Judges agreed with the opinion of the assessors, while in the cases of 514 persons they differed from the opinion of one or more but not from the opinion of all and in cases of 251 persons they differed from their unanimous opinion.

Appeals.

In sessions courts there were 326 appeals pending at the beginning of the year and during the year 2,979 appeals were preferred. The number decided during the year was 3,038 and 267 were pending at its

close. There was an increase in seven sessions divisions and a decrease in four, the largest increase being in the sessions division of Champaran-Muzaffarpur (+89) and the largest decrease in Darbhanga (-77). The number of persons concerned in the appeals decided by Sessions Judges was 6,110 of whom 3,628 or 59.4 per cent failed completely, and the appeals of 1,468 or 24 per cent were summarily dismissed. Of those whose appeals were admitted, 2,160 or 46.5 per cent were altogether unsuccessful; 1,006 or 21.7 per cent obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 1,423 or 30.7 per cent were acquitted; in cases of 51 or 1.1 per cent a new trial or further enquiry was ordered and in the cases of two persons the proceedings were quashed. Five persons died or escaped during the year.

In the courts of Magistrates there were 222 appeals pending at the beginning of the year, while 2,755 appeals were preferred during the year. The number decided was 2,761 and 216 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of Magistrates was 6,654. The appeals of 1,048 (or 15.7 per cent) were summarily dismissed and the sentences of 2,232 (or 39.8 per cent) of those whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, 3,280 appellants or 49.3 per cent were thus wholly unsuccessful. Of the remainder, 1,009 appellants or 15.2 per cent obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them and 2,233 or 33.5 per cent were acquitted. In the cases of 131 appellants or 2 per cent a new trial or further enquiry was ordered and the case of one was referred to the High Court.

During the year, 264 appeals were preferred and 271 appeals were decided in the High Court, and at its close 25 remained pending. Of the appeals preferred, 238 were against sentences passed by Courts of Sessions, 23 were against sentences passed by Magistrates acting under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and three were under section 476-B of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 182 out of 271 appeals decided, reversed in 36 and modified in 47. In three cases the sentence was enhanced and in three new trial was ordered. Of the persons concerned, the appeals of 263 were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; in admitted appeals the sentences on 83 appellants were confirmed, on 100 reduced or altered, on 116 annulled and on 17 enhanced. In the case of four persons new trial was ordered. The percentage

of appellants who were entirely unsuccessful was 62.3 as against 64 in the previous year.

Reference Under Section 307 Of The Code Of Criminal Procedure.

Ten references involving 37 persons were made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Seven references involving 28 persons were disposed of.

Death Sentences.

Thirty-seven references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for confirmation of the sentence of death, were made to the High Court during the year and ten references involving 11 persons were pending from the previous year. Fourty-one references in which 51 persons were concerned were disposed of. The sentence of death passed on 20 persons was confirmed, while 13 persons had the sentence of death passed on them commuted to transportation for life and nine others had the sentence set aside and were acquitted. The convictions of nine persons were altered and they were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment varying from two to ten years. Six references with six persons remained pending at the end of the year.

Panchayat Courts.

There were 128 panchayat courts in the province during the year, 94 of which were in the district of Muzaffarpur. The number of cases (1,686) disposed of by the panchayat courts in Muzaffarpur was slightly less than in the previous year. On the whole, however, the panchayat courts rendered some assistance to the Magistrates and Munsifs in the subdivisions where they were functioning and it is hoped that in course of time better type of men would be available to serve on them and many of the defects now found would be removed.

Complaints By Courts.

During the year 691 cases were instituted on the complaints of Courts and 103 were pending at the opening of the year. Four hundred and sixty-six of these cases ended in conviction and 179 in acquittal, 13 cases were withdrawn, 12 were dismissed, in two the accused persons escaped, proceedings in two cases were dropped, in one case the accused person was committed to the court of sessions and 199 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Receipts.

Fees and fines realised in criminal courts amounted to Rs. 8,68,437. Of this amount Rs. 3,38,480 were fines, Rs. 78,441 process fees, Rs. 1,61,763 copying and comparing fees, Rs. 2,61,566 court-fee stamp receipts other than the above and Rs. 28,187 miscellaneous receipts.

Magisterial Staff.

The magisterial staff of the province at the close of the year consisted of 290 Stipendiary and 90 Honorary Magistrates. Of the 290 Stipendiary Magistrates, 160 exercised first class, 97 second class and 33 third class powers. Of the Honorary Magistrates, two were special Magistrates under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Civil Justice.

The number of original suits instituted in the province was 210,314, an increase of 11,302 on the previous year's figures. There was an increase in litigation in seven districts and a decrease in four. The increase was most marked in Gaya (+5,686), Monghyr (+3,177), Bhagalpur (+3,017) and Darbhanga (+2,982) and the decrease in Manbhum-Singhbhum (-4,182) and Sasan (-2,265). Of the suits instituted, 35,467 were for money or movable property, 161,668 were rent suits, and 13,179 were title and other miscellaneous suits. The value of the suits instituted amounted to Rs. 4,06,76,754, a decrease of Rs. 33,06,677 as compared with the last year's figures. This decrease was mainly due to the institution of suits of lower value in some of the districts of the province. The increase in the number of title suits, which had been a feature of recent years, continued. There was a decrease of 3,405 in the number of money suits. On the other hand, the number of rent suits largely increased.

The following table shows the number of suits instituted in each district :—

1. Muzaffarpur	32,222
2. Darbhanga	28,833
3. Saran	25,557
4. Shahabad	22,172
5. Patna	19,180
6. Monghyr	19,003
7. Bhagalpur	18,774
8. Purnea	18,402
9. Gaya	16,541
10. Manbhum-Singhbhum ...	5,750
11. Chota Nagpur	3,880

The total number of suits instituted during the year (210,314), added to the number pending from the previous year (105,392), and to the number revived or otherwise received during the year

(15,980) provided a total of 331,686 suits for disposal. The number of suits disposed of was 216,858. The number of suits for disposal increased by 15,340 and the number disposed of by 21,380 as compared with the previous year. The average disposal of suits in the courts of Subordinate Judges increased from 191.2 in the previous year to 212.8 in 1938, and that of suits in the courts of Munsifs increased from 2,660.5 to 3,197.2. Of the suits disposed of 212,615 were disposed of by Munsifs (including 22,297 by small cause court procedure), 4,202 by Subordinate Judges and 41 by District and Additional District Judges. Of the 19,643 suits decided after contest, 247 or 1.3 per cent were decided on reference to arbitration. Of the remaining 98.7 per cent, 83 per cent or 16,303 suits ended in favour of the plaintiff and 15.7 per cent or 3,093 suits in favour of the defendant. The number of suits compromised was highest in Manbhum-Singhbhum (1,648).

There was a rise in the average duration of suits decided both on contest and without contest in the courts of the District Judges. The duration of suits decided on contest was the largest in the district of Shahabad (585 days). The duration of contested suits under the ordinary procedure in the courts of the Subordinate Judges was above the average for the province in six districts, the highest figures being 727 days in Bhagalpur and 602 days in Purnea. In the Munsif's courts the average duration of suits decided on contest under the ordinary procedure was above the average for the province in three districts, the highest figures being in the districts of Darbhanga (632 days) and Manbhum-Singhbhum (364.2 days). The number of suits pending at the close of the year fell from 105,392 to 99,657 (5.4 per cent); and the number of suits pending for over one year from the date of institution rose from 1,722 to 2,385 (38.5 per cent).

There were 60,618 applications for the execution of decrees pending from the previous year and 129,758 applications were made during the year. Full satisfaction was obtained in 84,873 and partial satisfaction in 9,724 cases; in 32,643 cases the proceedings were returned as wholly infructuous, while 60,807 remained pending at the close of the year. The total percentage of infructuous cases was 25.7 as against 24 in the previous year.

The total amount realised in courts, other than small cause courts, was Rs. 1,47,11,515. The coercive measures employed were, in 164 cases, the arrest of the judgment-debtor; in 294 and 42,889 cases, respectively, the sale of movable and immovable property; and in 33,598 cases, the attachment of property followed

by its release. Possession of immovable property was given in 957 cases.

The number of applications for retrial was 3,357 or 2.1 per cent of the total number of cases dismissed for default and decided *ex parte*. Of the total number of applications disposed of (3,367), 21.6 per cent were successful as compared with 17.2 per cent in the previous year.

In respect of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature, institutions and disposals numbered 1,217 and 1,023, respectively. The number of applications for deposit of rent was the highest in Monghyr (42) and Shahabad (41).

Civil Appeals.

The number of civil appeals and miscellaneous cases preferred before the High Court during the year was 2,541. In addition there were 2,438 cases pending from the previous year. Of the total number, 3,080 were decided during the year and 1,899 were pending at the end of the year.

In the Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court appeals instituted numbered 4,575, being 406 less than in the previous year. The largest decreases were in Patna and Shahabad. Appeals disposed of numbered 5,151, 33, less than in the previous year, of which 2,243 or 43.5 per cent were decided by District and Additional District Judges and 2,908 or 56.5 per cent by Subordinate Judges, the corresponding percentages in the previous year being 48.6 and 51.4 for District Judges, including Additional District Judges, and for Subordinate Judges, respectively. In 2,790 cases or 54.2 per cent of the whole, the judgment of the lower courts was affirmed; in 757 cases or 14.7 per cent it was modified; and in 858 or 16.6 per cent it was reversed; 158 appeals, or 3.1 per cent were remanded, and 589 or 11.4 per cent were either dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted. In addition to the regular appeals, 1,775 miscellaneous appeals were instituted of which 1,619 were disposed of and 590 remained pending at the close of the year.

Judicial Staff.

Besides the permanent personnel of the High Court, two temporary posts of Additional Judges created during the previous year continued throughout the year under review. The permanent civil judicial staff subordinate to the High Court consisted of 17 District Judges, including 6 peripatetic Additional District Judges, 24 Subordinate Judges and 79 Munsifs. Five Munsifs on probation were confirmed

and four new probationers were appointed. Five temporary appointments of Additional Subordinate Judges were also made during the year.

Miscellaneous.

The new rules regarding the issue of commissions requiring a knowledge of surveying worked satisfactorily. Out of 1,116 commissions issued 33 or 3 per cent were executed by persons with civil engineering degree and 829 or 74 per cent by pleaders holding certificates of proficiency in surveying and 254 or 23 per cent by other pleaders. The total amount of fees paid was Rs. 36,997. The number of commissions of other kinds issued was 828 and the total amount of fees paid in respect of them was Rs. 19,269.

The accounts of estates under the fiduciary control of the civil courts with an annual income of over Rs. 4,000 continued to be audited by the Local Audit Department with appreciably good results.

The provisions of the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, were applied by the subordinate courts in all cases where it was necessary to use them and the rates of interest were reduced where they were found excessive. In a large proportion of cases the courts acted *suo motu*. In Patna the provisions of the new Money-Lenders' Act were also applied in dealing with such cases.

The system of permitting service of summons on witnesses by parties or their agents as provided by the addition made in 1929 to rule 8 of Order XVI of the Code of Civil Procedure, still appears to be working satisfactorily. 33,479 such processes were made over to the parties during the year as against 31,698 in the previous year. The innovation did not, however, make it possible to reduce the process-serving establishment in any judgeship other than Chota Nagpur.

The Registrar system was introduced as an experimental measure in the judgeship of Monghyr in April 1938. The system proved of much benefit to the litigant public. As at Patna and Gaya, the office of the Registrar was held by a Munsif at Monghyr. It may be possible to extend the Registrar system to other judgeships as soon as finances permit.

Jails.

The number of permanent jails of all classes except subsidiary jails remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 4 central, 9 district and 1 juvenile. The number of the subsidiary jails increased from 40 to 41 owing

to the reopening of the subsidiary jail at Madhipura, which was amalgamated with that at Supaul in 1935 on account of floods. Of the three reduced district jails, viz., those at Chaibassa, Daltonganj and Arrah, which were temporarily restored to the status of district jails, the first two were restored to the status of subsidiary jails while the one at Arrah continued to function as a district jail.

The prison population at the commencement of the year was 10,792 against 11,565 in the previous year. The number of admissions, including transfers, rose from 55,369 to 59,632. The year closed with a population of 10,778 or 14 less than in the previous year. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes was 10,895.90 or 132.63 less than in the previous year. Of these the total number of convicts was 8,656.77 or 527.37 less, of undertrials 2,223.33 or 408.79 more and of civil prisoners 15.80 or 14.05 less. One convict who volunteered for service in the Andamans was transported with the sanction of the local Government, while 61 long-term convicts were released during the year on the recommendation of the Revising Board.

There was no state prisoner. The number of terrorist prisoners in jails in the year was 26, including one received from the Lahore jail and another received from the Delhi jail. All of them were discharged during the year.

The daily average number of undertrial prisoners was 2,223.33 against 1,814.54 in the previous year showing an appreciable increase. As against this there was a fall in the period of detention of undertrial prisoners both in "Sessions" and "other" cases, viz., from 70.08 and 26.79 days, respectively, in the previous year to 68.29 and 23.94 days during the year under review.

Education Of Prisoners.

A new feature was the introduction of mass literacy campaign in the jails of the province. Education was imparted to all the illiterate prisoners, convicts and undertrials and the progress and enthusiasm shown by them was very satisfactory. The jail staff also helped in imparting education to the illiterate prisoners. Out of 20,271 illiterate prisoners, both male and female, 13,295 attended literacy classes. Of these, 6,251 were made to read, while 3,836 were made to read and write and 2,853 were made to read, write and do simple arithmetic.

There were 33 Star class or non-habitual prisoners in the Hazaribagh Central Jail. 16 were admitted to the class during the year. These prisoners were kept separately from other prisoners

and were trained in weaving of various kinds and were given elementary instruction and physical drill.

Discipline. Only five prisoners, viz., four undertrial and one juvenile, escaped from jails during the year, of whom two were recaptured. The total number of offences committed by the convicts was 3,160 against 3,215 in the previous year. All were dealt with by the jail authorities except five which were referred to the criminal courts. Fetters for safe custody were imposed in 49 cases against 64 cases in the previous year. Ordinarily, long-termers and transportation prisoners who are considered to be dangerous are kept in fetters for safe custody pending their transfer to central jails.

The total strength of the permanent warder establishment during the year was the same as in the previous year, viz., 1,076. In addition to the permanent strength, 63 warders had to be appointed temporarily owing to over-crowding in the jails and for guarding condemned prisoners.

The total number of punishments inflicted on warders and Head-warders was 461 against 504 in the previous year. The number judicially punished was 2 against 3 in the previous year, 5 were dismissed against 9 in the year before, 5 degraded, 216 fined, 74 given extra drill and 159 formally censured or otherwise punished against 4,240, 69 and 179, respectively, in the previous year.

The system of granting remission of sentences to convicts as a reward for good behaviour continued to work satisfactorily and 4,921 such prisoners were released during the year as against 5,140 in the previous year.

Jail Manufacture. The working of the manufactory department did not show any sign of improvement. On the contrary, there was appreciable fall in the net profit. The net profit fell from Rs. 1,22,121 in the previous year to Rs. 68,046 during the year and the average net profit per head of convicts from Rs. 13-8-0 to Rs. 8-1-0. The decrease was mainly attributed to less sale of blankets in the Bhagalpur Central Jail and paucity of orders for tents in the Buxar Central Jail.

The principal industries of the jails are tent-making, tailoring and cotton-weaving on power-looms at Buxar, while blanket-weaving, tailoring, blacksmithy, carpentry and spinning were practised at Bhagalpur. In Gaya, the labouring prisoners were employed chiefly in the Government Forms Press and at Hazaribagh they were engaged in cotton and silk-weaving and tailoring.

Hand-spinning on charkhas was also introduced and good progress was reported therein.

Health. The year was satisfactory from the health point of view of prisoners. The total number of admissions to hospital as well as the daily average number of sick showed a further considerable fall during the year, the figures being 3,932 and 208.92, respectively, against 4,219 and 254.58 in the previous year. The admission-rate and constantly sick-rate per mille of average strength also fell from 382.6 and 23.1 in the previous year to 360.9 and 19.2, respectively, during the year. The total number of deaths from all causes and the death-rate per mille of the total strength also dropped from 143 and 12.9 to 108 and 9.9, respectively. The death-rate per mille of strength was the lowest ever recorded in this province.

Miscellaneous. The total expenditure on the jails, excluding the cost of buildings and repairs, was Rs. 13,40,583 against Rs. 13,21,901 in the previous year. The average cost per head also increased from Rs. 119-13-0 to Rs. 123-0-0.

Prison Reform. Numerous measures of reform for the improvement of the jail administration, in particular regarding the diet, dress, comfort, recreation and education of the prisoners were introduced. The pressing of mustard seed by hand labour was abolished.

CHAPTER VIII.

Excise.

General. Prohibition being one of the chief items in the Ministry's programme, all efforts have been directed to forging ahead with the policy of prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs. Prohibition became an accomplished fact in the district of Saran during the year. The sale and possession of all the excisable articles other than medicated wines, foreign liquor and opium was prohibited in the district. 95 country liquor shops, 71 *ganja* shops, 3 *bhang* shops and 1,957 *tari* shops were abolished as a result of the introduction of prohibition, while the number of opium shops was reduced from 13 to 7 and the sale of opium was allowed only to registered opium eaters to a limit of half a tola against one and a half tolas in non-prohibited areas. Though there was some opposition off and on from interested parties, the experiment worked smoothly on the whole. The Government wish to see how it works in mining areas and hilly and jungly tracts inhabited mostly by aboriginal tribes. With this end in view, they extended prohibition to four more districts from April 1, 1939, namely, to the coalfield area in the Dhanbad subdivision in the district of Manbhum and 5 police-stations in each of the districts of Ranchi and Hazaribagh. Hajipur subdivision in the district of Muzaffarpur also had to go dry on account of its proximity to Saran. There is a 5 miles shopless zone only round the combined prohibition area of Ranchi and Hazaribagh while there is no such shopless zone round Manbhum, Muzaffarpur or Saran prohibition areas. Retail prices of drugs were also heavily increased from April 1, 1939, to restrict consumption. No new excise shops were opened during the year and no temporary fair licenses were issued as was the custom in the past. A notable feature of the year was that the Sonepur fair, which is perhaps the biggest fair in India, went practically dry.

During the year 3,323 persons were convicted for offences against excise laws against 2,923 persons in the previous year. Of these there were 794 illicit distillers against 809 last year.

There was a slight increase in the number of persons convicted of smuggling, illicit distillation and sale of outstill liquor. The local excise staff generally spared no pains in keeping crime under control, but excise crime is so closely linked with the economic life of certain classes and tribes that without effective co-operation from the general public it is hardly possible for the Excise Department to expect more than partial success from its efforts to keep this class of crime under control. There is undoubtedly need of a more enlightened and organised public opinion in matters concerning excise policy and administration. The introduction of prohibition is easy enough, but the practical problem is how to make it a permanent reality backed by powerful and sustained enthusiasm. Want of faith in the ideal, and the facile optimism which refuses to take note of the practical difficulties and believes that prohibition can be enforced in a day, will alike retard progress towards the goal.

As regards the financial result of prohibition in the Saran district, Government lost the whole of the revenue amounting to Rs. 6,43,399 which they had derived from country spirit, *tari*, *ganja* and *bhang* in this district during the previous year. The enhancement of the treasury price of opium in the district kept the revenue under this head almost steady, i.e., Rs. 19,550 against Rs. 20,952. The revenue from foreign liquor, however, went up from Rs. 3,373 in 1937-38 to Rs. 5,562 in the year under report. This was due to the fact that some well-to-do consumers of country spirit who could not abstain from drinking patronised foreign liquor. The economic effect of prohibition on the people was reported to be satisfactory.

The Bihar Prohibition Act VI of 1938 was passed by the Legislature during the year but only sections 1, 3 and 19 of the Act regarding prohibition of liquor advertisements came into force simultaneously with the passing of the Act.

Revenue. The total gross revenue of the province from excise for the year was Rs. 1,20,07,054 against Rs. 1,22,17,458 in the previous year. The decrease was due to the introduction of prohibition in the Saran district. The incidence of excise revenue per head of the population was 5 annas and 11 pies against 6 annas in the preceding year. The figures for the previous year for the adjoining presidency and provinces were : Bengal 5 annas, United Provinces 4 annas and 11 pies, Central Provinces 7 annas and 2 pies, and Orissa 7 annas and 1 pie. The following table will show at a

glance the position of the excise revenue and charges of the province for the last 5 years :—

Period.	Revenue.	Charges.	Refunds.	Net revenue.	Percentage of charges.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1934-35 ...	1,14,97,167	12,29,375	15,080	1,02,52,712	10·69
1935-36 ...	1,21,90,687	12,86,680	28,805	1,08,75,202	10·55
1936-37 ...	1,16,37,119	12,73,593	27,044	1,03,36,482	10·94
1937-38 ...	1,22,17,458	12,64,103	18,144	1,09,35,211	10·34
1938-39 ...	1,20,07,054	12,93,740	34,754	1,06,78,560	10·74
Difference between the year under report and the preceding year.	—2,10,404	+29,637	+16,610	—2,56,651	+0·40

Excise Charges. The total expenditure on the Excise Department amounted to Rs. 12,93,740 against Rs. 12,64,103 during the previous year, an increase of Rs. 29,637. The increase was due to a larger quantity of opium being indented from Ghazipur Factory and under contingencies due to the introduction of prohibition in the district of Saran.

Country Spirit. The contract distillery system and the outstill system were both in operation in the districts of Gaya, Shahabad, Champaran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, the Santal Parganas, Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum. The districts of Hazaribagh and Palamau were wholly under the outstill system. The contract distillery system of supply prevailed in the remaining four districts. The total quantity of country spirit issued on payment of duty from the bonded warehouses was 647,824.4 L. P. gallons against 719,863.8 L. P. gallons in the preceding year. Out of the total decrease of 72,039.4 L. P. gallons prohibition in the district of Saran alone accounted for the decrease of 52,826.2 L. P. gallons. Besides this there was a decrease in consumption in all the districts except in the districts of Shahabad, Champaran and Singhbhum. The total number of licenses for the retail vend of country spirit in the distillery area was 885

against 994 in the preceding year. The decrease was due to a number of shops having been abolished due to various reasons, including six shops in the Kasba thana in the district of Purnea as a measure of temperance. The total revenue from distillery spirit and outstill liquor amounted to Rs. 65,02,864 in the year against Rs. 65,20,026 in the preceding year. The incidence per head of the population of the revenue from country spirit remained at 3 annas and 2 pies.

Pachwai. The total number of licenses issued during the year for the retail sale of *pachwai* was 445 against 449 in the previous year, the decrease in the number of licenses being due to the abolition of 3 licenses in Manbhum and 1 license in Hazaribagh. In addition to the licenses for retail sale, 2,182 licenses for home-brewing were issued against 3,029 in previous year. The concession enjoyed by the aboriginals for free home-brewing of *pachwai* remained unchanged. The total revenue from the issue of *pachwai* licenses amounted to Rs. 2,21,361 (Rs. 2,19,160 from retail licenses, Rs. 2,192 from home-brewing licenses and Rs. 9 from special licenses) against Rs. 1,93,396 in the previous year. The increase is due to the settlement of shops at higher fees.

Foreign Liquor. The total quantities of oversea foreign liquor consumed in this province were 12,375 gallons of spirit, 3,575 gallons of wine and 73,725 gallons of beer against 13,235 gallons, 4,467 gallons and 77,789 gallons, respectively, in the previous year, while quantities of India-made foreign liquor consumed were 6,423 gallons of spirit and 3,555 gallons of beer against 4,802 and 11,583 gallons respectively in the preceding year. These figures do not represent the actual consumption of foreign liquor in this province, as many private consumers and *bona fide* clubs, who are not required to take out licenses for sale of liquor to members for consumption on the premises and who are treated as private persons, obtain their supplies direct from other provinces. The use of foreign liquor was confined mainly to Europeans, Anglo-Indians and a limited number of well-to-do classes of Indians. The total number of licenses of different kinds for the sale of potable foreign liquor other than commercial spirits was 225 against 221 in the preceding year.

The revenue from potable foreign liquor during the year amounted to Rs. 1,40,535 against Rs. 1,09,283 in the preceding year. The increase in revenue was firstly due to the fact that the amount of duty relating to the export of India-made foreign

liquor from the distilleries and bonded warehouses in Bengal during the preceding year was transferred to this province during the currency of the year under review and secondly due to the increase in consumption of India-made foreign liquor in the district of Saran, where prohibition of other excisable articles was in force.

Ganja.

With a view to exercise effective control over the production of *ganja*, the cultivation and manufacture of the drug were carried on in the district of Bhagalpur as in the previous year in an area within a radius of 8 miles from the Bhagalpur cutchery. Six licenses were issued for cultivation of *ganja*. The total area under cultivation during the year was 150 acres and produced a crop of 996 maunds and 30 seers of *ganja*, of which 619 maunds and 10 seers was flat and 377 maunds and 20 seers was of the round variety. The cost price of *ganja* during the year was fixed at Rs. 140 per maund both for the flat and the round variety. The number of licenses for the retail sale of *ganja* in the year was 1,066 against 1,136 in the previous year. All the 71 shops in the district of Saran were abolished due to the introduction of prohibition and two other shops one each in the districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga were also abolished. A uniform rate of duty and retail price, i.e., Rs. 35 and Rs. 70 per seer respectively prevailed in the province except in shops on the Nepal border where the price was Rs. 60 per seer. The total quantity of *ganja* issued on payment of duty was 28,746 seers against 32,506 seers in the previous year. Consumption increased in the districts of Gaya, Shahabad, Manbhum and Singhbhum and decreased in the rest of the districts of the province. 1,390 seers of *ganja* was exported to Nepal on payment of duty (Rs. 25,400) against 1,103 seers (duty Rs. 22,060) in the preceding year.

The total amount of revenue from *ganja* was Rs. 17,98,037 against Rs. 19,07,128 in the previous year. The incidence of taxation during the year was Rs. 61.0 per seer against Rs. 58 per seer in the previous year.

Bhang.

The exclusive privilege of collection and wholesale supply of *bhang* continued to be the monopoly of a single individual as in the previous year. The drug was supplied from the Central Gola at Bhagalpur to the warehouses of this province as well as to the provinces of Bengal, Assam and Orissa and Mayurbhanj State in Orissa. The quantity of *bhang* issued under bond to wholesale dealers of this province was 263 maunds and 30 seers against 242 maunds and

20 seers of the preceding year, while 225 maunds of the drug was exported under bond to Bengal against 220 maunds in the previous year. 36 seers of *bhang* was exported to the province of Assam on payment of duty in that province against 1 maund and 22 seers in the previous year. 100 maunds of *bhang* was exported to Orissa against 105 maunds in the previous year. The total revenue from *bhang* during the year amounted to Rs. 65,922 against Rs. 61,196 in the preceding year.

Opium.

The total number of licenses issued during the year for the retail sale of Excise opium was 399 as compared with 408 in the preceding year. No new shop for the retail sale of opium was opened during the year. Six shops were abolished in the district of Saran due to the introduction of prohibition and one each in the districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. The number of druggists' permits issued under the opium and the dangerous drugs rules were 176 and 194, respectively. The total quantity of opium issued during the year to shops within the province was 8,299 seers against 8,410 seers in the preceding year. Consumption decreased in the districts of Saran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Ranchi and increased in the remaining districts of the province. The retail and treasury price of opium remained the same as in the previous year (i.e., Rs. 100 per seer) except in the district of Saran where it was raised to Rs. 160 due to the introduction of prohibition. The total revenue from opium amounted to Rs. 8,39,540 against Rs. 8,34,865 in the preceding year. Slight increase in revenue is attributed to the settlement of shops at higher fees.

CHAPTER IX.

The Land and the People.

General. Among others the following factors had an important effect upon the welfare of the agricultural population of the province during the year :—

(*i*) The continuance of the economic depression and the low level of prices for agricultural produce; (*ii*) the extensive loss of crops through repeated floods and the irregular monsoon; and (*iii*) the widespread agrarian agitation which frequently demanded special measures to maintain law and order, especially in those areas where wholesale demands were made for the restoration of Bakasht lands. The various tenancy measures enacted by the Ministry, however, helped to afford the much-needed relief to the peasantry.

The pressure of the population on the soil continues to increase and this is regarded as the ultimate cause of the province's economic troubles. This once again emphasises the vital need of making efforts to increase the yield of crops and to stimulate and develop the village industries. The population of the province as recorded by the last census was 32,558,056, and it is expected that the figures of the census of 1941 will show a considerable increase.

Land Revenue And Cess. The total current demand for land revenue was reduced from Rs. 1,25,63,403 to Rs. 1,23,98,218 and the principal causes are said to be—

(*i*) the revision of the assessment at the settlement and re-settlement of temporarily-settled estates and the estates under direct management;

(*ii*) the reduction by 25 per cent of the rent demand of estates under direct management in the Santal Parganas and the heavy fall in the receipts from the Hiranpur and Sahibganj cattle markets in that district; and

(*iii*) the transfer to the Central Government of the revenue formerly paid to the Provincial Government by the Karharbari colliery of the East Indian Railway in Hazaribagh under the financial arrangements consequent on the new constitution.

The percentage of total collection on total demand fell from 88.69 per cent in the previous year to 86.53 per cent. The outstanding balance at the end of the year was Rs. 14,71,379 compared

with Rs. 15,21,074 at the end of the previous year. In the permanently-settled estates the percentage of total collection on total demand was 97.53 per cent, in the temporarily-settled estates the percentage was 70.85 and in the permanently-managed estates the percentage was 46.99. In the temporarily-settled estates Government allowed remissions of land revenue amounting to Rs. 37,942 and in the directly-managed estates remissions of rent amounted to Rs. 3,65,852.

The cess demand increased from Rs. 75,03,416 to Rs. 78,05,891. This was due to the revision of the assessment in the Muzaffarpur district, the assessment of collieries under the Bihar Cess (Amendment) Act II of 1936 in the Hazaribagh district and the increase in the despatches of iron-ore in the Singhbhum district. The percentage of total collection on current demand was 94.84 compared with 97.63 in the previous year. The fall in the collection is attributed to the continuance of the economic depression, the extensive damage to crops, the agrarian agitation and the withholding of payments of rent by tenants in the expectation that the rents would be reduced in the rent reduction operations.

Coercive Measures. In consideration of the prevailing economic and agrarian conditions the revenue sale laws were leniently administered, and the Board of Revenue accepted all the recommendations of the Divisional Commissioners for the annulment of sales on the ground of hardship. There was no default in payment or sale in the Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum districts. Defaults and sales in other districts were slightly lower in number than those of the previous year. 9 estates with a Government revenue of Rs. 558 were purchased on behalf of Government.

Government Estates. The total cost of management of Government estates amounted to Rs. 1,82,290 compared with Rs. 1,80,672. Expenditure on works of improvement in these estates increased from Rs. 87,239 in the previous year to Rs. 1,21,226 in the year under review. Government made liberal reductions or remissions of rents in Government estates. In the Santal Parganas alone over Rs. 3 lakhs of arrear rents were remitted and the rents reduced by 25 per cent.

Wards And Encumbered Estates. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year was 61, to which 10 new estates were added, making a total of 71 estates under management at the close of the year. The total demand (including arrears)

for Government revenue and cess during the year was Rs. 12,38,099, and the estates paid a sum of Rs. 10,17,967 on this account. The rent and cess payable to superior landlords decreased from 61.2 per cent to 54.3 per cent of the total demand. The rent and cess payable to the estates during the year was Rs. 99,37,609 but only Rs. 35,00,586 was collected. Excluding the arrear demand, the percentage of collection on the current demand decreased from 86.6 in the previous year to 71.2 during the year. The standard of 100 per cent collection on current demand was attained only in six estates as compared with 17 in the previous year. This was attributed to the unsettled conditions produced by the rent reduction operations and the consequent decision of many tenants to withhold the payment of rents. The outstanding balance of rents and cess due to all estates again increased during the year from Rs. 49,04,314 to Rs. 63,17,585, i.e., 128.4 per cent on the current demand and 63.5 per cent on the total demand compared with 96.0 per cent and 51.7 per cent respectively in the previous year. The outstanding balance of rent and cess at the close of the year was 70.7 per cent of the total current demand in Tirhut Division, 251.6 per cent in Bhagalpur Division and 180.5 in Chota Nagpur Division. The aggregate debts of the estates under management decreased from Rs. 61,99,286 to Rs. 52,68,193 during the year. The deterioration in the finances of a large number of Wards and Encumbered Estates was pronounced in a comparatively small number of estates and it was felt that the energies of the authorities responsible for those estates should be vigorously directed towards the restoration of the financial strength of the estates. The percentage of the cost of management for all estates during the year rose from 11.8 to 12.2. The expenditure of the estates on contributions to schools, dispensaries and charities fell from Rs. 2,36,754 in the previous year to Rs. 1,73,265 during the year under review. The Bettiah estate alone spent a total sum of Rs. 1,37,221 on these charities against Rs. 1,67,950 in the previous year. The medical institutions of the Bettiah estate continued to perform valuable services which were widely appreciated.

Relations Between Landlords And Tenants.

Relations between landlords and tenants recorded a further deterioration during the year. In several districts feelings culminated in violence and rioting. The deterioration is attributed to the agitation among the kisans, the wholesale claims by tenants to *bakasht* lands and the withholding of the payment of rents during the rent reduction operations. The tenants are now generally much more alert in exercising their right to obtain legal remedies against

unlawful exactions and have learnt to organise and to combine their forces. In several districts there were particularly acute problems, for example, the *bakasht* problem was of exceptional difficulty in the Gaya district. In other areas trouble was caused because petty landlords depended on *hari-begari* for the cultivation of their *bakasht* lands or because they failed to carry out some of their obligations to the tenants. Elsewhere methods of land settlement and forest restrictions caused discontent. In the Santal Parganas, the relations between tenants and landlords were on the whole satisfactory except in the Deoghar subdivision. In Chota Nagpur, the relations were generally good except in Palamau, Chatra and Dhalbhum.

Survey And Settlement.

No new proposal for a major survey and settlement was made during the year. The survey of Jamalpur municipality was sanctioned but the work did not commence during the year. The proceedings under section 112 of the Bihar Tenancy Act for the settlement of rent in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad and Monghyr were continued during the year. The total number of holdings whose rent was reduced was 146,072 and the total *jama* of Rs. 41,40,866 after reduction came to Rs. 30,75,284. The average reduction in the gross rental ranged from 31 per cent in Aurangabad and Jehanabad to 16 per cent in Sasaram. The disposal of 462 petitions under section 90 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act entailed by the revisional settlement of Dhalbhum and the deposit of settlement records in the office of the Deputy Commissioner was completed. The Survey and Settlement records in several districts being out of date, the Board of Revenue has been asked to frame a programme of work in the districts where the revision of records is most urgently needed.

Revenue Cases.

The total number of suits of all classes instituted during the year in Chota Nagpur rose from 34,526 to 47,141 and 20,909 cases remained pending at the close of the year. The number of applications for commutation of produce rents into cash rents rose from 835 to 4,568 in Patna, 60 to 13,975 in Tirhut and 117 to 811 in Bhagalpur. The increase in Patna is attributed mainly to the amendment of the Bihar Tenancy Act according to which the landlord can no longer oppose commutation on the ground that the irrigation arrangements are elaborate and costly. Tenants also want to take advantage of the low agricultural prices to have the cash rent fixed at a low rate. The increase in Monghyr and Bhagalpur is reported to

be due to the present agrarian troubles. The number of cases filed against landlords for failure to grant rent receipts in the prescribed form fell from 377 to 350.

Loans.

A sum of Rs. 8,68,202 was advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. It was mostly granted in the districts of Tirhut (Rs. 5,76, 499) and Bhagalpur (Rs. 2,74,189) Divisions. Including arrears, the amount of principal due for collection was Rs. 16,77,462 of which Rs. 834 was remitted, Rs. 2,94,528 collected and the collection of Rs. 6,60,920 was held in suspense. The amounts of principal and interest were suspended in all the districts of the Tirhut Division except Saran. Of Rs. 32,292 advanced during the year under the Land Improvement Loans Act, Rs. 27,163 was distributed in the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division and the balance in the districts of the Patna and the Bhagalpur Divisions excepting Patna and Purnea.

Treasure Trove.

There were 7 cases of treasure trove, viz., 3 in Champaran. 2 in Ranchi and 1 each in Bhagalpur and Hazaribagh. In Champaran 82 and 30 silver coins were unearthed in the Sadr and Bettiah subdivisions, respectively, and 64 Kushan copper coins in village Lauriya in that district. The silver coins were sent to the Patna Museum. In Patna two stone images and one round stone piece were unearthed in the Bihar subdivision. They were reported to be of archæological interest but were not removed to the Patna Museum, as the images were installed in a temple by the Hindus for worship.

Forests.

There is ample evidence to prove that denudation of forests is still proceeding in Chota Nagpur, where most of the surviving forests in the province are centered, at a pace that threatens the extinction of the forest area within a limited time and there is good reason to believe that of recent years the rate of destruction has been progressively accelerated. With the denudation of forests it is increasingly felt that in an agricultural country inhabited for the most part by aboriginals there is also a great economic danger. The free or cheap supply of wood so necessary for the agricultural population will come to an end and the grazing area will be diminished and the cattle population will suffer severely. Wood being no longer available for fuel, cowdung replaces it and is lost as a manure. The catchment areas have been denuded quite in ignorance of the evil consequences which become manifest slowly in course of time in the erosion of soil, the silting up of rivers and in devastating

floods in the plains below. Hence the urgent need for the preservation and protection of as many private forests as possible. Government have offered, and are now prepared to offer, liberal terms to those private landlords who want to transfer their forests for management by the Forest Department, but the progress in this direction has been very slow.

The total area of all classes of forests in Bihar was 2,766 square miles, comprising 1,310 square miles of Government reserved forests, 277 square miles of other reserved forests, 662 square miles of Government protected forests, 414 of other protected forests, 3 square miles of unclassed State Forests and other areas under the Forest Department and 100 square miles of unclassed forests *not* under the Forest Department. An area of 14,490 acres of protected forests in Hazaribagh district and 67,392 acres of private estate forests in Ranchi and Singhbhum districts or a total of 81,882 acres or 128 square miles was under settlement proceedings at the commencement of the year, of which an area of 14,163 acres of private forests or 22 square miles of Dhalbhum Estate in Singhbhum district was finally settled and declared as protected forests during the year. New areas of private estate forests brought under settlement proceedings during the year were 250 acres in Dhalbhum Estate and 10,160 acres in 12 different lots in the Ranchi district.

Small-scale experiments in afforestation are being carried out in the Chaibassa and the Santal Parganas Divisions. Further experiments with contour trenching are to be made before the potential value of this method can be estimated. In the Palamau Division the Forest Department continued to make experiments with the planting of exotic coniferous seeds and other hill species on the Netarhat plateau.

The total revenue from forests was Rs. 7,73,314 against Rs. 7,00,926 in the previous year, while the total expenditure was Rs. 5,95,656 against Rs. 5,69,143 in the previous year. There was a net profit of Rs. 1,77,658 compared with Rs. 1,31,783 in the preceding year.

The total number of forest offences reported during the year was 2,511 compared with 2,280 in the previous year. The total number of cases taken to court, including 112 cases pending from the preceding year, was 644, of which 372 cases ended in conviction and 75 in acquittal. The total area of reserved forests enjoying fire protection was unchanged (721.678 acres). The percentage of the success attending protective measures was 66.5 as against 89.2 in the previous year. In the protected forest area fire protection was attempted in 49,371 acres compared with 49,193 acres

in the previous year. The usual protective measures of cleaning and the burning of fires, boundary lines and road traces, and the employment of fire patrols in the fire season were adopted. In order to make protective measures more effective, the Forest Department are attempting to secure the co-operation of the villagers living in the neighbourhood.

Irrigation And Flood Protection.

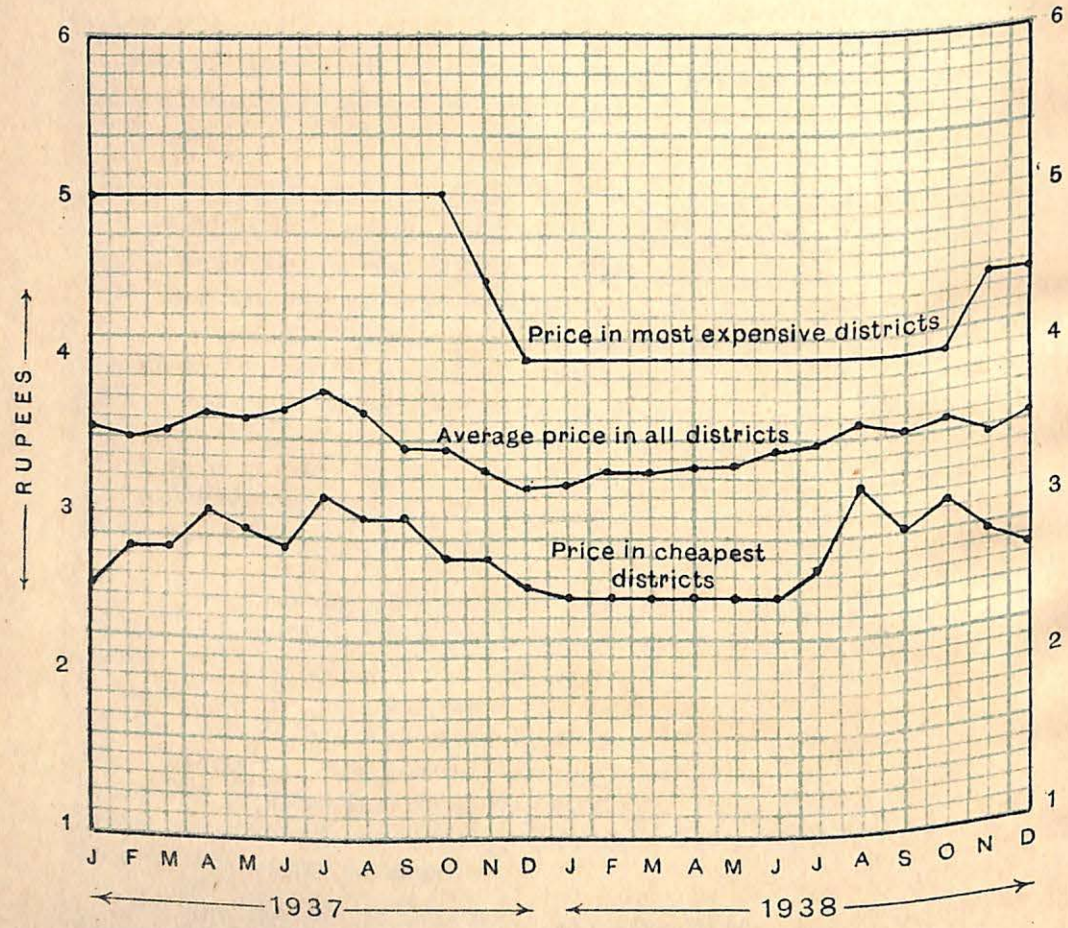
The important canal systems of the province are the Son canals in South Bihar and the Tribeni and Dhaka canals in North Bihar, irrigating an area of 701,687 acres. The total length of the Son canals is 1,587 miles and 3,016 feet, irrigating an area of 594,501 acres, while the Tribeni canal irrigates 96,000 acres, Dhaka canal 9,129 acres and Teur canal (which is a minor canal) 2,057 acres.

2. The net revenue from the Son canals amounted to Rs. 15,34,458 after meeting the expenditure on working expenses which amounted to Rs. 9,24,357. The total amount of water rates realised from the other canals was Rs. 2,96,862 from the Tribeni canal, Rs. 36,030 from the Dhaka canal and Rs. 7,926 from the Teur canal against the total expenditure of Rs. 78,512 over maintenance of and repairs to these canals. The cultivators in the Son canal area were given relief in the shape of reduction of water-rates with effect from 1st April 1938 which amounted to Rs. 75,970 on the Dehri Division and Rs. 1,21,362 in the Arrah Division, making a total of Rs. 1,97,332.

3. The Irrigation Department as usual looked after the protective measures against floods by the maintenance of embankments and drainage systems. So far as the Tirhut embankment is concerned, all the spurs were badly damaged during the floods but the embankment was saved by means of protective measures. The Champaran embankment was also breached but the construction of a retired line saved the situation. All the spurs in the Saran embankment were badly damaged during the floods but no serious situation developed.

4. The Tirhut Waterways Division, which was formed temporarily in 1934 for investigating the conditions arising out of the earthquake continued to function and collected useful data on schemes for flood protection and drainage of the flood-affected areas. The activity of the Division was greatly increased during the year and 37 new schemes relating to flood prevention and drainage were investigated.

Diagram showing the price in rupees of one standard maund of common rice month by month in 1937 and 1938.



Drawn & Zincographed in the Bihar Survey Office Gulzarbagh, Patna.

CHAPTER X.

Agriculture, Livestock And Co-operation.

Weather And Crop.

The monsoon of 1938 was not satisfactory. Heavy rains almost all over the province, except Chota Nagpur, where there was deficient rainfall, considerably reduced the yield of the maize and the autumn rice crops. The damage was the heaviest in Tirhut, where in certain areas the crops were completely destroyed by floods. Compared with the average production of the previous ten years, the outturns of maize and autumn rice in the province were estimated at 63 and 80 per cent respectively of the normal. The winter rice started well but suffered later through the failure of the October rains, so that the yield of rice was 16 per cent less than in the previous year. There were also some local hail-storms in February and March which along with the untimely rain during the months damaged the standing crops to some extent in almost all districts.

Autumn Crops.

The general condition of the *bhadai* crop was reported to be fair to good everywhere except in Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Purnea and parts of Bhagalpur and Singhbhum where the crops suffered on account of unfavourable weather conditions at the beginning of the season. Later the crops suffered on account of excessive rain and flood in Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Purnea and deficient rainfall in Manbhum and Singhbhum. The outturn of the *bhadai* crops was estimated at 79 per cent of the average of the past 10 years, while the total yield for maize and autumn rice decreased from 444,900 tons and 632,300 tons to 351,900 tons and 538,700 tons, respectively.

Winter Rice.

The winter rice is the most important crop of the province. It was greatly affected due to shortage of rainfall in October and unfavourable weather conditions. The prospects of the crop for the province were fair on the whole though some damage was caused in some districts by heavy rainfall and flood. The final outturn of the crop was estimated at 79 per cent of the normal on an area 14 per cent less than the normal resulting in an yield of 42,229,300 cwts. as against 50,166,500 cwts. in the preceding year.

Rabi Crops.

Bihar is the chief *rabi*-growing tract. The outturns of wheat and spring oil-seeds were estimated at 384,900 tons and 288,100 tons as against 432,700 tons and 250,200 tons, respectively in the previous year.

Jute. The main jute-producing area in this province is Purnea, but the crop is also grown on a small scale in the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur and the Santal Parganas. The area sown was estimated at 315,500 acres as compared with 445,000 acres in the previous year, while the outturn was expected at 435,600 bales as against 896,400 bales in the previous year.

Sugarcane. The weather in general was favourable for the sugarcane crop in all the districts of the province except in parts of Saran, Purnea and Champaran and the condition of the crop was fair to good everywhere except in Champaran. The total area planted with sugarcane was estimated at 375,300 acres against 360,500 acres in the preceding year. Taking the provincial yield at 10 tons per acre for north of the Ganges, and 14 tons elsewhere the gross outturn of cane works out at 3,692,700 tons or 100,523,500 maunds as compared with 3,790,900 tons or 103,196,700 maunds of the preceding year.

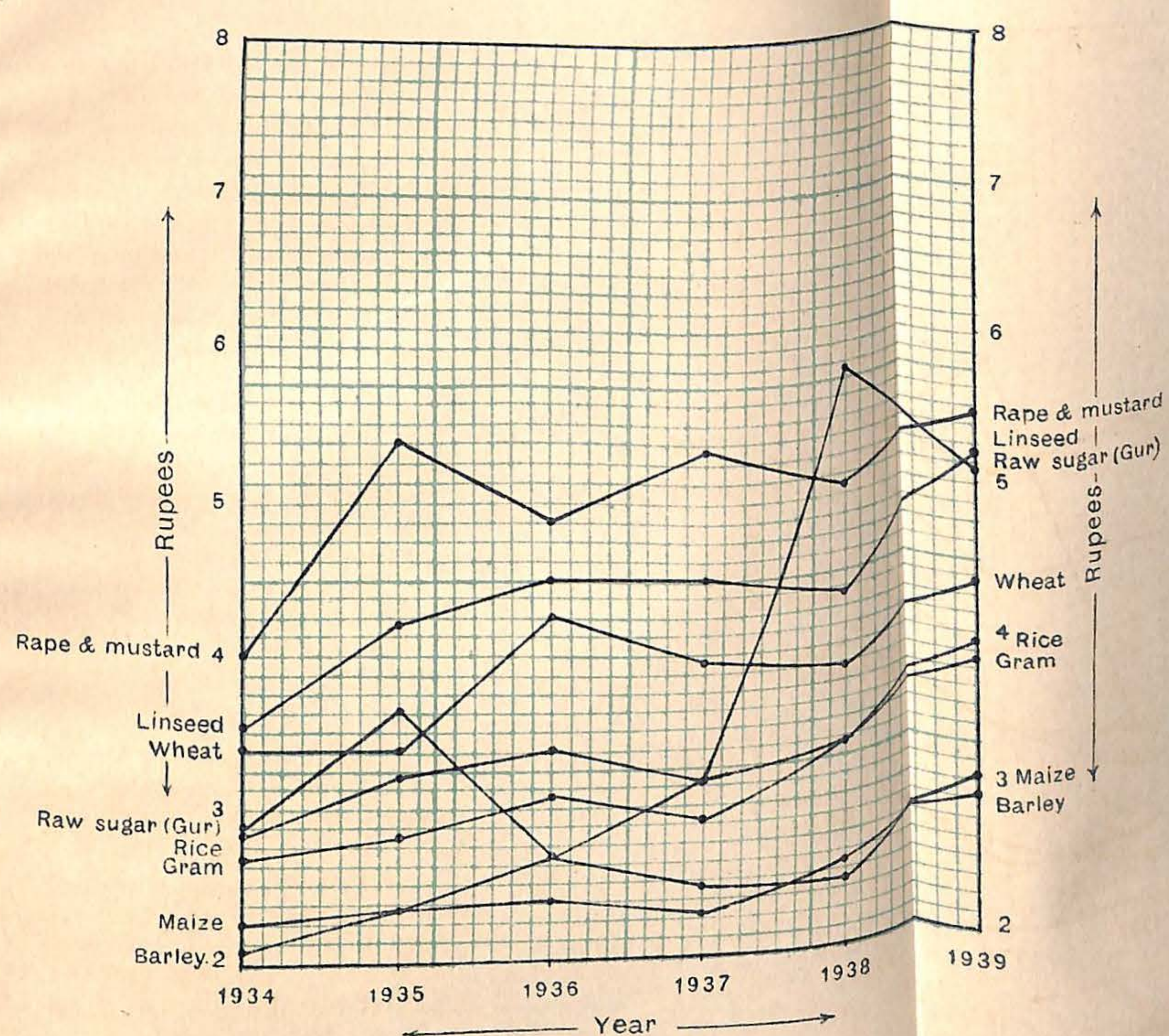
The districts in which cotton is grown on more than 1,000 acres are Saran, Muzaffarpur, the Santal Parganas and the districts of Chota Nagpur Division except Singhbhum. The weather and general condition of the crop in these districts were on the whole fair. The estimated yield was 7,131 bales as compared with 8,265 bales of the preceding year.

Cropped Area. The total area cropped for the year, which includes the area cropped more than once, was estimated at 23,350,700 acres as against 23,810,000 acres in the preceding year.

The area under winter or *aghani* paddy, which is by far the most important crop in the province, showed an increase of 1.23 per cent as compared with that of the last year, and the area under autumn or *bhadai* paddy decreased by 0.96 per cent. The area under maize and *marua*, the other important *bhadai* crops, showed decreases of 2.07 and 3.18 per cent respectively on account of unfavourable weather conditions, while the area under jute, another important *bhadai* crop, also suffered a reduction of 29.10 per cent due to excessive rainfall and flood in the most important jute-growing district of Purnea.

Of the *rabi* crops, gram, barley, wheat, rape and mustard and linseed are the most important and the areas under these during the year showed reduction of 1.40, 0.54, 0.55, 3.79 and 1.77 per cent, respectively as compared with the previous year due mainly to deficient rainfall in October.

Graph showing price per standard maund in rupees of important agricultural commodities from 1934 to 1939.



Drawn & Zincographed in the Bihar Survey Office Gulzarbagh, Patna.

Prices And Marketing. The prices of staple food-grains were on the whole slightly higher than the previous year except in the districts of Darbhanga, Monghyr and Purnea.

The scheme of agricultural marketing, financed by the Government of India with a view to study the whole problem in regard to the marketing of agricultural commodities to enable the primary producer to obtain better prices for his produce, made good progress during the year. The most important marketable commodities have been surveyed by the specialised staff engaged for the purpose and preliminary reports have been completed. Developmental work in starting grading stations for eggs, ghee, oil, rice, tobacco, mangoes, etc., has been in progress and stations for the grading of ghee, tobacco and mangoes have been established in one or two centres which have definitely brought higher returns to the growers. It is proposed to appoint a Gur Development Officer to develop better markets for *gur* and to improve the quality now being sold in the market.

Agricultural Research. The research work carried on by the Department of Agriculture falls under two distinct heads, one financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the other financed from the provincial revenues.

The rice research scheme falling under the former category is being continued with a view to tackle the problems facing the cultivator regarding the rice crop, which is the major food crop of the province, and thereby assist him in recovering better quality and higher yield from the crop through the evolution of improved varieties and better methods of production. The Rice Specialist has succeeded in selecting various promising strains from established pure lines, and these have been tested at various centres and have proved superior to the existing standard varieties now recommended by the Department. A number of these give promise of very high yields. It has been shown that the best time for planting paddy is during the month of August with six weeks old seedlings, 6 inches apart being the optimum spacing with three seedlings per hole.

Acclimatisation of exotic varieties of rices is in progress and the work in this direction is proceeding satisfactorily.

Work on the manurial side of this crop has shown that ammonium sulphate is superior as a source of nitrogen to nitrate of soda, and where phosphates are necessary, it is better to apply superphosphates in combination with ammonium sulphate. The value of green manure has been established. By adopting this it is possible to get a substantial increased return per acre.

Under the sugarcane research scheme, financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, several promising varieties of proved merit and high yields have been introduced and distributed to the growers. They are Coimbatore 299 in the early medium group, Coimbatore 213 in the medium and Coimbatore 331 in the late group. Other promising varieties such as Coimbatore 395, Coimbatore 393, Coimbatore 371, Coimbatore 383, BO 4, Coimbatore 513 and Coimbatore 421 are still being tested.

On the manurial aspect of the crop, it has been established that castor cake is definitely a suitable manure for promoting the yield of the crop; that there was no definite benefit in applying half the manurial dose at the time of planting and the other half at earthing up. The use of potash brought no economic gain in yield. Rotational experiments have shown that it pays to green-manure a cane crop rather than leave it fallow before planting a crop.

Attempts are being made to utilise the waste products of the sugar industry to greater advantage for the benefit of the crop.

The research work on fruits in the province, also financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, is confined to such important fruits grown in the province as mango, litchi and papaya. The work, however, is being chiefly concentrated on the problem of the alternative bearing of the mango to discover the cause of this phenomenon which is a serious handicap to the fruit grower. A physiologist was sent abroad to be trained specially to take up this aspect of the work and he returned in September, 1937, and is now in charge of this scheme.

A collection of 55 varieties of mangoes from various parts of India have been planted at Sabour, which is the headquarters of this scheme, to see if any of these varieties can be introduced with benefit in Bihar. A few of these have been fruiting for the last two years, and there are indications that some could be grown with advantage.

Cultivation of the litchi is confined to only certain parts of the province and attempts are being made to extend the cultivation to other areas. Another problem is in regard to its propagation and it is found that the system of propagation known as "goote" is the most superior and economical.

At present there are no pure varieties of papayas and steps are being taken to discover suitable strains for the province.

Another major scheme known as Sugarcane Improvement Scheme is designed to develop the cultivation of sugarcane on more

improved lines and to give the growers every facility towards achieving this object. This scheme is financed from the sugar excise fund at an annual expenditure of Rs. 3,00,092. Through the medium of this scheme, 7,827 sugarcane demonstrations were carried out and 60,434 maunds of sugarcane were sold to the public, chiefly for seed purposes during the year.

Provision also exists for the free distribution of improved seedcane, green manure seed and fertilisers to encourage growers in their use.

An Entomological section was started during the year to investigate the problems dealing with the insect pests of cane. A scheme was also sanctioned for starting a sugarcane mycological section to study the fungus pests of sugarcane.

In addition to the above, there are several minor schemes, which are either financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research or from provincial revenues. Some of these are, (*i*) sun-hemp scheme, (*ii*) fodder analysis scheme, (*iii*) flue-curing of tobacco and (*iv*) rock drilling. Work in connection with these schemes is in progress.

Apart from these schemes, research work is being carried on in the Chemical, Agricultural Engineering and Botanical Sections of the Department which are situated at the Research Institute at Sabour. The Agricultural Chemist, the Agricultural Engineer and the Assistant Economic Botanist are in charge of these sections respectively and the cost of these sections are met from provincial revenues.

One of the main items of work in progress in the Chemical Section is the completion of the soil survey of the province. This work was started in 1935 and it is hoped before long to have a complete soil survey map of the province which will furnish all details regarding the types of soil found in the province along with useful information regarding their chemical and physical properties. The Chemical Section undertakes the analysing of all the sugarcane juice samples throughout the harvesting season from centres all over the province. In addition to this special work, samples of soil, manures, fodders, etc., are also analysed for other sections of the Department as also for the public. Problems relating to the manurial and water requirements of crops and mineral requirements of livestock are being studied by this section.

The Engineering Section deals mainly with improvement of irrigational facilities for the cultivators by improving the output

of water through the sinking of open borings and tube-wells and in the conservation of rain-water for irrigational purposes by the construction of tanks and the bunding up of small streams and ravines. A special staff for the installation of tube-wells and open borings is maintained for the benefit of the cultivators. Work is also undertaken to design suitable water lifts for irrigation purposes.

Attempts are also made to design improved agricultural implements and machinery. This section has so far succeeded in designing recently a suitable hand-power winnowing machine capable of dealing with six maunds of grain per hour which is expected to be particularly useful in winnowing wheat and gram. Four of these machines were made and distributed to the four ranges. After the machines have been thoroughly tried and tested, it is proposed to make them available to the cultivators at a price of Rs. 100 each. A further improvement in the present design of the rahat pump has also been effected during the year.

The Botanical Section deals chiefly with the breeding and production of improved varieties of crops. Work in connection with the breeding and selection of improved varieties of linseed, sun-hemp, gram, *juar*, maize *rahar*, vegetables, chillies, etc., is in progress and improved strains are being selected.

Propaganda And Demonstration.

The Department took part in the different fairs and held agricultural exhibitions for demonstrating agricultural improvements. In the grounds of the Sonepur fair, which is the most important fair in the province, the Department possesses a permanent demonstration plot which is run on the same lines as a model farm. During the fair all kinds of improved implements and their uses are shown to the people. The use of different kinds of water lifts suitable for agriculture are also being demonstrated.

The Department distributed 38,641 maunds of seeds of improved varieties, which included 36,256 maunds of sugarcane seed. The Department has succeeded in introducing several improved varieties of cane and has arranged with several planters for the multiplication of wheat seed on its behalf.

Agricultural Advisory Committees.

In order that the departmental staff may be helped in carrying on propaganda and demonstration work for the development of agriculture, 62 Agricultural Advisory Committees were appointed, each subdivision being an unit. A total grant of Rs. 14,070 was distributed among these committees to enable them to carry on that work. In each subdivision one overseer and three kamdars

were engaged for propaganda work with a view to spread agricultural knowledge among the villagers as effectively as possible.

Other Activities.

Other developmental activities in connection with such industries as are connected with agriculture are bee-keeping, goat-keeping and poultry. A staff of overseers trained at Bangalore and Cuttack for a short course in the art of bee-keeping were employed in the establishment of apiaries at the central farms of the Department and in training other overseers of the Department in this art. A small flock of Jamnapari goats were purchased from the Mission Goat Breeding Farm, Etah, United Provinces and they are being kept at the Gaya Farm with a view to investigating the possibilities of developing this branch of animal husbandry, while a small flock of sheep is maintained at the same Farm with a view to studying the question of sheep-breeding at first hand. Two flocks of white leghorn poultry are being maintained by the Department, one at Kanke and the other at the Patna Farm. The Kanke flock is progressing satisfactorily and the work towards better egg-production is being continued. The Patna flock, on the other hand, received a set-back due to outbreaks of dangerous poultry diseases. The assistance of the Poultry Disease Investigation Officer was sought to combat these diseases.

Agricultural Farms.

There were 4 central experimental farms with their range subsidiary farms, i.e., Patna, Pusa, Sabour and Kanke. The Patna Central Farm continued to tackle the agricultural problems on general crops like sugarcane, paddy and wheat. At the Pusa Farm fodder crop such as *berseem* and hot weather maize are grown, while a portion of *dhab* land is now being utilised for studying the problem of deep water paddies suited to the commonly flooded tracts which now provide a serious problem for finding out suitable crops and varieties for the flooded parts of the Tirhut Range. At the Sabour Farm, a very large number of experiments with all the principal crops of the Range were conducted, jute and cotton being the new crops to be taken up later, while a portion of the farm has been transferred to rice section for research work. At the Kanke Farm experiments on paddy sugarcane, fruit, fodder crops, etc., are being conducted. A feature of the work at the farm is the experiment in bee-keeping. A special shed has been erected at which bees have been successfully hived.

Cattle Diseases.

In the beginning of the year the general condition of the cattle was satisfactory. But during the monsoon which broke out earlier, a large

number of outbreaks were reported from all parts of the province. The principal contagious live-stock diseases, viz., Rinderpest, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Black Quarter and Foot and Mouth diseases were reported from almost all the districts of the province. Anthrax appeared in Purnea and all districts south of the Ganges except Manbhum, while Bovine Surra occurred in most of the districts in a sporadic form. During the year 5,524 outbreaks of different contagious live-stock diseases were reported and of a total of 63,574 animals affected, 18,062 succumbed as compared with 2,884 outbreaks, 36,593 attacks and 12,644 deaths recorded in the previous year. The increase in the figures of outbreaks and deaths is due to the fact that all the principal contagious live-stock diseases except Foot and Mouth Disease were rampant in a virulent form in the Central Range. A total number of 5,144 out-breaks were attended to by the staff of the Department during the year. Altogether 616,720 cattle were protected through inocula-tions in a total bovine population of 777,098 in the 1,261 villages in which the outbreaks occurred. The immunization was success-ful, the percentage of deaths of the immunized animals being only .04 though this was high compared with the figure of .005 during the previous year. Inoculation of cattle against Rinderpest by the "Serum alone" and the increasingly popular "Goat-Tissue-Virus" methods was carried out in all the districts.

Veterinary Hospitals.

Twenty-nine veterinary hospitals functioned during the year, in which altogether 119,576 animals were treated as compared with 103,459 during the previous year. In addition, 132,171 old cases were treated and 18,798 animals not brought to hospitals were supplied with medicines. Altogether 430,088 fresh cases were treated by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons on tour as well as at the head-quarters. In addition, 25,926 old cases were treated.

A feature of medical facilities for the treatment of cattle-diseases was a net-work of rural field veterinary dispensaries. One hundred and seventy-five such veterinary dispensaries were at work. Altogether 178,036 fresh cases were treated at these institutions as compared with 143,441 in the previous year.

Cattle Farm.

The total strength of the herd at the Patna Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm at the end of the year was 592. The total milk yield during the year was 370,382½ lbs. In addition, over 544 lbs. of cream, 188 lbs. butter and over 112 lbs. of ghee were sold. The total revenue of the farm amounted to Rs. 53,566 against the total expenditure of Rs. 68,901-6-6.

The Bihar Veterinary College.

The college entered upon its 9th session during the period under review. 46 new students were admitted, while 55 out of 63 old students returned for further studies, making a total of 101 students on the roll. The new admissions included 29 students from other provinces and States, including 18 from the United Provinces admitted under a reciprocal arrangement entered into with the Government of that province whereby they undertook to admit 10 students from Bihar into the Cawnpore Agricultural College in return for 20 of their students admitted into the Bihar Veterinary College. A revision class was started for the first time in January 1939 for the plucked students of class 'A'. 7 out of 8 such students joined the class. Out of 26 students, 22 passed the Diploma Examination, and out of 56 and 25, 48 and 20 passed the Annual Examination of Classes 'A' and 'B', respectively. The college hospital did useful work. The Research Laboratory carried out experiments in several diseases.

Propaganda And Research.

Altogether 7,508 lectures on different subjects, e.g., common livestock diseases and their prevention, care and management of animals, etc., were delivered by the departmental staff at important centres, fairs, gatherings and rural veterinary dispensaries and primary schools.

Experiments in Rinderpest with the object of evolving suitable methods for cultivating the Virus in Vitro were continued and a method of getting cell-free Rinderpest Virus from blood cells by means of Glycerine was evolved.

Efforts were made by the Disease Investigation Officer to come to grips with the diseases of cattle that were of immediate concern to the stock-owners.

Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals.

The work under this head is done by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Bihar. The departmental staff attended 919 cases which were prosecuted or brought to their notice. In addition, 5 cases of flaying goats alive and 5 cases of cattle poisoning were reported. The total income of the Society, including the imposition of fines, was Rs. 14,678-7-0, while the total expenditure was Rs. 7,852-15-6.

The Co-operative Movement.

23. The total number of working societies of all kinds, including the Co-operative Federation and the Provincial Co-operative Bank, stood at 7,762 as against 7,246 in the previous

year. There was a net increase of 516 societies which included 469 cane-growers' co-operative societies. Further organisation of new credit societies is not being encouraged pending the consideration of the rehabilitation scheme and formulation of new rules to be followed in order to avoid the pitfalls of earlier organisation.

The percentage of classification of societies audited during the year is as follows :—

A (Model)	...	...	...	.9
B (Good)	...	...	...	6.4
C (Average)	...	...	...	66.4
D (Bad)	...	...	...	21.4
E (Hopeless)	...	...	...	4.9

The Central Co-operative Bank, Limited, Aurangabad, had the highest percentage of model societies, i.e., 17.4 while the highest percentage of good societies stood at 22 and was attained by the Siwan Central Co-operative Bank, Limited. The Central Co-operative Bank, Limited, Sitamarhi, had the highest percentage of bad and hopeless societies, i.e., 56.3 and 11.4, respectively.

Efforts to eradicate corruption in the co-operative institutions were continued during the year and the Department succeeded in further reducing the number of such cases. Only 7 cases of mal-practices were detected during the year against 19 in the previous year.

The Provincial Co-operative Bank.

There was a further decrease in the working capital of the Provincial Co-operative Bank from Rs. 96,30,144 to Rs. 91,29,546. This fall was mainly due to heavy refund of deposits. The paid-up share capital also decreased from Rs. 5,89,400 to Rs. 5,84,400. As in the last five years, no dividend was declared on the shares for want of any distributable profits. The statutory Reserve Fund increased from Rs. 4,54,345 to Rs. 4,55,905, while the Reserve for contingencies rose from Rs. 3,57,900 to Rs. 3,60,542. The total amount of deposits of all kinds held by the Bank was Rs. 53,39,000 against Rs. 64,27,000 in the previous year. The position of the Bank improved with the assistance which Government gave in the form of a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs and a declaration of their intention to stand behind the Bank. The rates of interest paid on the different kinds of deposits continued to be the same as in the previous year except that on fixed deposits even for more than a year the same rate was allowed as on fixed deposits for one year only.

In the matter of fresh financing the Bank continued to follow a very cautious policy. No fresh loans except some short-term loans to the Paharia societies in the Rajmahal subdivision in the district of Santal Parganas were given to any Central Bank or Union. Collection from these societies was 98.9 per cent and 100 per cent respectively of the total demand on account of principal and interest. This should serve as an example to other co-operative institutions in the province. The total demand from Central Banks was Rs. 43,95,000 as principal and Rs. 8,54,000 as interest against a total collection of Rs. 78,000 as principal and Rs. 58,000 as interest. The Bank made a profit of Rs. 1,21,000 including the sum of Rs. 1,18,000 brought over from the previous year. The year's profit was, therefore, Rs. 3,000 only against Rs. 30,000 in the previous year.

Central Banks And Unions.

The number of Central Banks and Unions was 53 as before. The aggregate paid-up share capital on the 31st December 1939 was Rs. 16.07 lakhs against Rs. 16.22 in the previous year. The working capital also decreased from Rs. 164.50 lakhs to Rs. 160.73 lakhs. The total statutory Reserve stood at Rs. 7.45 lakhs, being only 4.6 per cent of the working capital. The proportion of owned to borrowed capital was 1 :4.

The total reserve of Banks and Unions increased by Rs. 44,000 and stood at Rs. 14.30 lakhs. The statutory Reserve also increased from Rs. 7.38 lakhs to Rs. 7.45 lakhs. The total deposits held by Central Banks and Unions decreased from Rs. 82.22 lakhs to Rs. 78.49 lakhs. The Ranchi Central Co-operative Bank had the largest amount of deposits from societies, i.e., Rs. 71,888, while the largest amount of deposits from individual members stood at Rs. 76,013 which was held by the Laheriasarai Central Co-operative Bank. The total collection on account of principal which amounted to Rs. 4.04 lakhs represented 3.6 per cent of the total demand against 4.8 and 3.6 per cent in 1937 and 1938, respectively. The Deoghar Bank had the highest percentage of collection, viz., 55.9, the Godda Bank came next with 35.8 per cent, the Dhanbad and the Siwan Banks had 31.7 and 21 per cent, respectively. Collection in four banks ranged between 10 and 20 per cent, while in eight banks it varied between 5 and 10. In the remaining thirty-seven banks it was below 5 per cent. The total collection of interest was 4.61 lakhs against Rs. 4.98 lakhs in the previous year. The percentage of collection was 7.8 against 9.9 in the previous year. The combined percentage of collection of principal and interest came to 5 against 5.4 in 1938. The banks

advanced only Rs. 1.84 lakhs to their affiliated societies against Rs. 1.98 lakhs in the preceding year.

Rural Development.

The Bihar Village Welfare Scheme, financed by the Government of India grant, was amalgamated with the bigger scheme of Rural Development under the control of the Chief Organiser, Rural Development Department. Some of the Central Banks, however, continued to interest themselves in rural reconstruction work as before. Village roads were constructed and repaired, old wells excavated and new ones sunk with the joint effort of the members.

Societies.

The total number of working agricultural societies of all types increased during the year from 7,039 to 7,486 with 179,838 members against 169,078. The paid up share capital and working capital of the societies amounted to Rs. 10.71 lakhs and Rs. 142.55 lakhs, respectively, against Rs. 11.24 lakhs and Rs. 147.12 lakhs in the previous year. The statutory reserve and the other funds stood at Rs. 25.93 lakhs and Rs. 1.33 lakhs, respectively, against Rs. 26.64 lakhs and Rs. 1.22 lakhs in the preceding year. The percentage of owned to borrowed capital was 36.3.

Among the Agricultural Societies there were 23 grain *golas*, 2 Sale Societies, 1 Dairy Society, 1 Better Farming Society, 27 Cane Marketing Unions and 826 Cane-growers' Societies.

The scheme for the organisation and operation of Cane-growers' Co-operative Societies was transferred to the control of the Cane Commissioner, Bihar, who was vested with the powers of Joint Registrar. The membership of these societies stood at 17,924 and the societies contracted for a supply of 4,513,424 maunds of cane to sugar factories during the crushing season 1939-40 on behalf of these societies. The most significant feature of the activities of these societies was that they introduced a very large amount of improved and greater sucrose yielding varieties of cane and improved agricultural implements in their areas of operation.

The number of primary credit societies decreased from 6,628 to 6,606 and the membership from 152,873 to 152,745. The working capital and the reserves stood at Rs. 141.24 lakhs and Rs. 26.99 lakhs, respectively, against Rs. 147 lakhs and 27.62 lakhs in the preceding year. The total amount of loans advanced to members during the year was Rs. 2.06 lakhs against Rs. 2.51 lakhs advanced in the previous year. Out of the total demand of principal of Rs. 95,24,991 only Rs. 5,21,420 or 5.4 per cent could be collected, while out of the total demand of interest of Rs. 82,50,670, Rs. 4,92,437 or 5.9 per cent could be collected.

The number of non-agricultural societies increased from 205 to 215 during the year and the membership from 33,048 to 35,068. Out of the total demand in respect of principal of Rs. 2,69,336, Rs. 1,34,965 or 50.1 per cent could be collected and out of the total demand of interest of Rs. 1,46,134, only Rs. 8,836 or 6.04 per cent could be collected. Of these special mention be made of the societies for the depressed classes which numbered 24, of the Thrift Societies numbering 5 with 124 members, and of Better Living Societies numbering 30 with 1,412 members.

The Co-operative Federation.

The control of audit was taken over by Government and the Federation continued to confine its activities to the organization of the annual meeting of co-operators, publication of magazines and securing a uniform standard of work in all the banks, etc. A contribution of 6 pies per cent on the working capital of central banks and unions and limited liability societies was levied for carrying out the restricted future activities of the Federation and maintaining the minimum staff required for the purpose. A sum of Rs. 863-10-0 only was realised on this account against a total assessment of Rs. 6,859-10-9 for the year. The Federation started the year with an overdraft of Rs. 33,731-3-9 and closed with an overdraft of Rs. 31,989-10-6 in the old cash credit account with the Provincial Co-operative Bank. It received during the year a subsidy of Rs. 8,051 from the Government for audit for the year 1938-39 and another of Rs. 1,200 for the maintenance of inspecting clerks in backward areas, while a sum of Rs. 2,082-2-3 was also realised on account of arrear audit contribution due from banks and societies.

The Twenty-first Session of the Co-operative Federation Congress was held at Muzaffarpur on the 19th and 20th August 1939 with Dr. Radhakamal Mukherji, Professor of the Lucknow University, as President. The session was opened by the Hon'ble Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, the then Minister-in-charge of Finance and Local Self-Government.

The publication of the Bihar Co-operative Journal and the Hindi magazine, *Gaon*, was continued during the year.

The Co-operative Training Institute continued to impart training to field workers in the co-operative movement. The training of the graduate stipendiaries was completed and the refresher course training of the organisers and supervisors of cane-growers' co-operative societies was also taken up.

Progress Of Rehabilitation Enquiry.

By the end of 1939, enquiries were completed in 21 banks containing 2,437 societies with over 49,000 members.

Cane Department.

For the purpose of administering the Sugar Factories Control Act, 1937, a separate department, known as the Cane Department, was established under a Cane Commissioner. The departmental staff consisted of an Assistant Cane Commissioner, Special Cane Inspector, Sugar Chemist and eight Cane Inspectors. In addition to these, four junior officers of the Indian Civil Service were deputed to the Department to work as Cane Inspectors for the duration of the crushing season. A Provincial Sugarcane Advisory Committee and Advisory Committees for Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Purnea and for Bhagalpur-*cum*-Monghyr and for the Patna Division were set up. A Sugar Control Board was constituted to deal with important matters, affecting the sugar industry.

The total quantity of cane crushed by the thirty-two factories, operating in Bihar, during the year with which the Department had to deal amounted to 4.88 crores of maunds. The seven factories in the United Provinces with which the Department has to deal purchased about 22 lakhs maunds of cane from this province. The total quantity of sugar produced in the province was 164,500 tons against 225,300 tons of the previous year, being 25.08 per cent of the total production of the country. The average recovery for the provincial factories was 8.97 per cent as compared with 9.58 per cent in the previous season.

In consultation with various statutory Advisory Committees, a definite cane-growing zone was reserved to each factory. This system ensured a rational method of supply of sugarcane to the factories to the mutual advantage of the growers and the factories.

It was a very favourable year for the grower so far as sugarcane prices were concerned. Due to the shortage of the crop, the grower obtained good prices for his cane. The price of cane fixed at the beginning of the season was 6 annas 9 pies per maund for cane purchased at the factory gate or within 5 miles of it, 6 annas 6 pies for cane purchased at outstations and transported at the cost of the factory from distances of 5 to 28 miles from the factory and 6 annas 3 pies for cane transported at the expense of the factory from a distance of more than 28 miles. With effect from the 12th February 1939 an all-round increase of 3 pies per maund was announced and this figure remained in

force till the end of the season. Actually due to the shortage of the crop, growers in some cases realised as much as 5 annas per maund over and above the minimum price fixed by Government. The crop brought cash to the value of over rupees two crores to the growers during the year.

In addition to zoning, another innovation introduced during the year was the levy of a cess of 6 pies per maund on every maund of cane purchased by a factory in order to provide funds for the development of cane cultivation. The total amount collected during the year on this account was Rs. 14,58,694.

CHAPTER XI

Commerce And Industry.

General.

The industrial outlook was, on the whole, satisfactory during the year. The improvement in the coal and the mica industries was maintained and there was an increase in their output. There was a fall in the demand for manganese ore owing to the restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government and the dullness of the European market. The iron and steel industry did well and the workshops of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited were expanded by the addition of a new plant. The wire nail industry at Jamshedpur also continued to flourish and added a new plant for the manufacture of bolts and nuts. The Tinplate Company of India, Limited, Golmuri, and Kumardhubi Engineering Works suffered during the year as a result of labour strikes. The rice and flour milling industry showed some improvement. The depression in the lac industry continued to cause anxiety to the Provincial Government who drew up a scheme for the better marketting of lac for the consideration of the Legislature. The outbreak of war after the close of the year brought about an improvement in the price of lac and the necessity for any measure of control was less urgent. Although the large rise in prices immediately after the outbreak of hostilities has not been maintained, the market appears to have become stabilized at a reasonable level owing to the increased demand for lac for war purposes.

The Tata Iron and Steel Company increased their output of iron ore from the Noamundi mines by nearly 140,000 to 680,000 tons; their production of pig iron increased from 921,300 to 1,023,000 tons and their production of saleable steel increased from 660,378 to 701,000 tons. The Bengal Iron Company, now amalgamated with the Indian and Steel Company, produced 545,822 tons of iron ore from their mines during the year.

Coal.

The decline in the coal industry, which was manifest towards the latter half of 1938, continued throughout the year. Although there was a normal demand for coal, stocks at most collieries accumulated. There was a temporary panicky demand for coal when war was declared in September 1939, but this only lasted for about a week. Labour was plentiful up to September and thereafter it became scarce due

to an unprecedented rich harvest. Wages were inclined to rise somewhat towards the end of the year.

The number of coal mines worked was 363 in 1938 and 334 in 1939. The output of coal decreased from 15.46 million tons in 1938 to 14.89 million tons in 1939.

The despatches were slightly better than those of the preceding year.

Mica.

Prices of all grades and qualities of mica rose during the year owing mainly to increased demand in Europe and Japan. American demands remained sub-normal until the outbreak of war. In general, prices during 1939 were considerably higher than at any previous period of the Bihar Mica Industry. The supply of labour was sufficient and wages were normal. The mica export from Calcutta showed a further increase from 134,425 cwt. in 1937 to 142,782 cwt. (valued at Rs. 99,85,187) in 1938. Of these 79,621 cwt. were block and splitting mica, 1,136 cwt. manufactured mica and 62,025 cwt. scrap mica.

Copper.

At the copper mines worked by the Indian Copper Corporation, Limited, in the Singhbhum district, operations were carried out throughout the year with the exception of a stoppage of two days due to the shutting down of the Moubhandar Generating Plant, which supplies the mine with power. The stoppage was due to a slow-down strike on the part of the Boiler Plant operatives.

The output of copper ore amounted to 403,443 short wet tons as compared with 322,649 short wet tons hoisted during the previous year when operations were curtailed by a strike. This output was produced almost entirely from Mosabani and Dhobani mines, although small tonnages won during development operations at Badia and North Badia are also included.

The production of refined copper amounted to 6,535 long tons as compared with 5,330 long tons produced during the previous year. The grade of ore for 1939 was maintained at the same level as for 1938. The production costs for the year whilst somewhat less than those of the previous year, when there was a strike lasting three months, show a considerable increase over those of 1937. For this the increased cost of wages, leave pay and maternity benefits made by the Conciliation Board's award in November 1938, coupled with the increase in the cost of stores, were mainly responsible.

The production of iron ore was 1,421,090 tons, valued at Rs. 26,89,996 as compared with 1,587,362 tons valued at Rs. 27,30,077 in the previous year. The Tata Iron and Steel Company's plant was maintained in full operation throughout the year and in result the production of pig iron rose from 921,300 tons in 1937-38 to 1,020,000 tons during the year under review and of saleable steel from 660,378 tons to 701,000 tons. A new Power Plant and Distribution System with sub-stations at the important centres in the works were put into operation and the new Control and Research Laboratory was officially opened during the year.

Iron.

The following table gives details of the other important minerals produced in the province :—

Other minerals.

Minerals.	District where found.	Output in tons in 1937.	Output in tons in 1938.
1	2	3	4
Manganese ore ...	Singhbhum	24,180	24,469
Chromite ore ...	Singhbhum	7,678	5,194
Steatite	Singhbhum and Hazaribagh ...	550	692
Slate	Monghyr	573	820
Limestone ...	Ranchi and Shahabad ...	345, 037	613,138
Stone (chiefly igneous rock).	Gaya, Monghyr, Santal Parganas, Shahabad and Singhbhum.	488,792	616,995
Sandstone ...	Shahabad	39,414	18,612
Fireclay	Bhagalpur and Manbhum ...	4,280	8,871
China clay ...	Bhagalpur and Singhbhum ...	7,407	7,493
Gravel	Singhbhum	13,936	14,117
Gold	Manbhum and Singhbhum ...	26 ounces.	16 ounces.

The number of metalliferous mines worked during the year was 1,056, an increase of 96 over the previous year's figures, viz., Bauxite 1, Chromite 13, Clay 11, Copper 6, Fireclay 19, Gold 2, Iron ore 9, Limestone 19, Manganese 21, Mica 857, Slate 5, Steatite 4 and Stone 89.

There were 911 accidents in mines, of which 135 were fatal. The number of persons killed was 144, while 808 were seriously injured as against 119 killed and 647 injured in the previous year.

The number of factories increased from 357 to 378 during the year. 31 new factories were added on to the register and 10 were removed.

Factories.

The average daily number of workers employed in all the industries during the year was 93,034. The number employed in each industry was as follows :—

Metal manufacture	...	... 25,583
Engineering	...	... 19,296
Sugar	...	... 18,110
Ceramic	...	... 5,760
Tobacco	...	... 1,763
Printing	...	... 1,633
Mills	...	... 6,320
Coke	...	... 2,065
Shellac	...	... 1,741
Textile	...	... 7,533
Educational	...	... 854
Miscellaneous	...	... 2,195
	Total	... 93,034

The total number of accidents of all classes which were reported during the year was 3,306.

The number of inspections made by the regular Inspectors during the period was 395, that by the *ex-officio* Additional Inspectors and *ex-officio* Inspectors 81 and that by the *ex-officio* Lady Additional Inspector 18.

The occupiers and managers, in some cases occupiers or managers alone of 10 factories were proceeded against under the Factories Act.

The number of companies limited by shares was 171 during the year against 150 in the previous year. The total authorised capital of these companies was Rs. 18,91,74,350 against Rs. 16,55,28,650 in the previous year, while the total paid-up

Registered Companies And Associations.

capital was Rs. 5,67,53,570 against Rs. 4,39,61,967. 21 such companies were registered during the year, of which 7 were registered as private companies. One of these was voluntarily wound up during the year and another struck off the register under section 247 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, as amended by Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936.

No foreign companies were registered during the year.

10 new societies were registered under Act XXI of 1860, bringing the total number in the province to 82.

The number of firms registered under the Indian Partnership Act of 1932 was 55 against 64 in the previous year.

8 trade unions were registered during the year, bringing the total number of such unions to 18.

Boilers.

During the year 2,522 applications were received for inspection of boilers by the joint Inspectorate of Bihar and Orissa, and out of the total number of 2,893 applications including those outstanding from the previous year, the inspections of 2,667 boilers were completed.

59 steam vessels (Bihar 51 and Orissa 8) were surveyed under the Indian Steam Vessels Act. The number of visits made to steamers was 113 in addition to the total number of visits to boilers.

The total fees realised for boilers and steamers in Bihar during the year was Rs. 1,32,230-7-0.

11 prosecutions were instituted for offences under the Indian Boilers Act. Except in one case all the prosecutions ended in conviction.

Electricity.

Up to the year under report the number of licenses granted for undertakings under the Indian Electricity Act was 14, of sanctioned undertakings 5 and the number of licenses granted during the year was 3. Applications for the grant of licenses for the towns of Purulia, Dhanbad-Jharia, Samastipur and Hazaribagh were under the consideration of Government when the year closed.

20 electrical accidents were reported of which 6 were fatal, 2 serious and 12 slight. With a view to reducing the number of such accidents, supply companies were asked to see that their consumers strictly complied with rule 51 of the Indian Electricity

Rules, with the result that more precaution is now being taken in this direction though there is still room for improvement. It is also hoped that accidents will be minimised on the introduction of rules for the grant of competency certificate to wiremen, etc. which are still under the consideration of Government.

During the year 183 high and medium pressure installations and 47 cinema installations were inspected and a sum of Rs. 7,324 as inspection fees was collected.

Cottage Industries.

The hand-weaving industry of the province, which is the important cottage industry in Bihar, showed a further advance during the year under report. The quantity of yarn consumed by the handlooms increased from 18.1 to 22.0 million lbs. The weaving demonstration parties introduced among the weavers 2,337 fly shuttle looms, 233 warping drums, 30 dobbies and 10 jacquards, and demonstrated the weaving of fabrics of finer quality and better designs. Itinerant demonstration parties for training in tanning and leather work were started during the year. The sale of art textiles of the purdah manufacturing section declined during the year and amounted to Rs. 1,32,066 as against Rs. 1,69,197 in the previous year, due to a fall in foreign business, but the handloom marketing organisation (Bihar Cottage Industries) and the Government Wool Emporium tried to make up the deficit by designing and manufacturing staple goods for the Indian market. The training of 'Hos' of the Singhbhum district in wool spinning and weaving of druggets and *asans* made further progress and they were supplied with charkhas and looms by the department which also helped to market their goods through the Wool Emporium.

Bihar textiles were advertised and marketed through 5 subsidised sales depots at Patna, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Calcutta and Delhi-Simla, 2 foreign agents, 18 Indian agents and the central warehouse at Gulzarbagh. The depot at Delhi-Simla was closed towards the end of the year as the subsidy paid was out of proportion to the sales effected and a stockist agent was appointed there on commission basis. The five depots sold goods worth Rs. 33,360, while the sales of the London and New Zealand agents amounted to Rs. 31,044 and 29,931, respectively. Bihar textiles were also exhibited in the exhibitions held in India and in foreign countries.

The total expenditure on the handloom marketing organisation out of the grant from the Government of India amounted to Rs. 45,337 during the year as against Rs. 49,459 in the previous year.

Pisciculture.

It is satisfactory to note that the export of fish from Bihar increased from 72,684 maunds to 1,31,403 maunds during the year. The fry distribution work at the Patna centre was maintained inspite of unfavourable weather conditions. This centre was able to give a supply of fry to the Government of Bombay for the development of pisciculture in that province. The experiment in the rearing of spawn at Ranchi with the object of spreading pisciculture in Chota Nagpur was not very successful. It is hoped to remove the defect after a biological and chemical examination of the rearing tank as advised by the Director of the Zoological Survey of India.

State Aid To Industries.

A provision of Rs. 6,000 was made during the year for giving loans to small industrialists under the State Aid to Industries Act but only Rs. 1,000 was advanced to two applicants. The Board of Industries recommended some more applications for loans, but they could not be sanctioned as the applicants failed to furnish the necessary security.

Industrial Education.

The importance of industrial and technical education is being increasingly realised by the general public and this is reflected in the appreciable increase in the number of applications received for admission into the technical and industrial institutions. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Bihar Unemployment Committee funds were provided by Government for the conversion of a few upper primary and middle schools into half-time vocational schools and accordingly five such schools at Dhanbad, Gaya, Raghunathpur (Manbhum), Dighra (Darbhanga) and Monghyr were converted into half-time vocational schools and were paid grants-in-aid during the year. Besides these, two new industrial schools for girls and women started at Muzaffarpur and Patna for the teaching of such handicrafts as spinning, weaving, knitting, sewing, and embroidery, received grants-in-aid from the Department of Industries. Thus the number of aided schools increased from 11 to 21 during the year. By the starting of two weaving and basketry schools at Jharia and Kustore for the women workers in the coalfields, the number of Government institutions also increased by two. The number of pupils attending the various technical and industrial institutions during the year increased from 2,662 to 3,166, while the grants-in-aid made to such institutions amounted to Rs. 37,181. The total expenditure on technical and industrial institutions, both Government managed and aided ones, increased from Rs. 4,53,992 to Rs. 4,99,569 during the year.

The total number of students attending all the three courses, i.e., degree, subordinate and industrial diploma courses at the Bihar College of Engineering increased from 272 to 287. A scheme for introducing in this college degree courses in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering was drawn up during the year by an Expert Committee appointed for the purpose and was under the consideration of Government. The number of applications for training in Civil Engineering Degree Course increased from 50 to 54. Of the 39 students admitted 3 were from Orissa, one from Rewa Darbar and 16 from other parts of India. Thus, as in the past, qualified Bihari candidates again failed to apply for admission in sufficient numbers.

99 candidates applied for admission to the Civil Engineering Subordinate Course against 110 in the previous year, the total number of seats being 45. Of these, 47 students, including 4 repeaters and 2 from Rewa Darbar, were admitted.

The Industrial Diploma course continued to be as popular as before and there were as many as 226 applications for admission as against 200 in the previous year.

As regards the Ranchi Technical School, as many as 196 candidates applied for admission during the year as against 168 in the previous year. In the Tirhut Technical School 117 applications were received as against 196 in the previous year. The Cottage Industries Institute, Gulzarbagh, maintained its popularity in spite of the unemployment of some of the ex-students. A paper-making section was added during the year and attention was also devoted to the training of students in practical salesmanship. A noticeable feature was the admission of a number of girl students for the first time. 173 students newly admitted and 40 promoted from the 1st Year Class continued their studies. Of these 148 appeared for the examination and 137 passed. 103 students who had completed their course of training successfully were awarded certificates. The value of various articles of marketable quality produced by these students amounted to Rs. 21,178 during the year. Proposals to grant loans to Cottage workers on easy terms under the State Aid to Industries Act and to help the ex-students in marketing their products by starting a model marketing organisation were under consideration. While the gross expenditure on the working of this institute increased from Rs. 68,010 to Rs. 71,125, the receipts dropped from Rs. 28,779 to Rs. 26,832 in spite of the increase in the number of students under

training. The net cost of working this institute increased from Rs. 37,327 to Rs. 41,144.

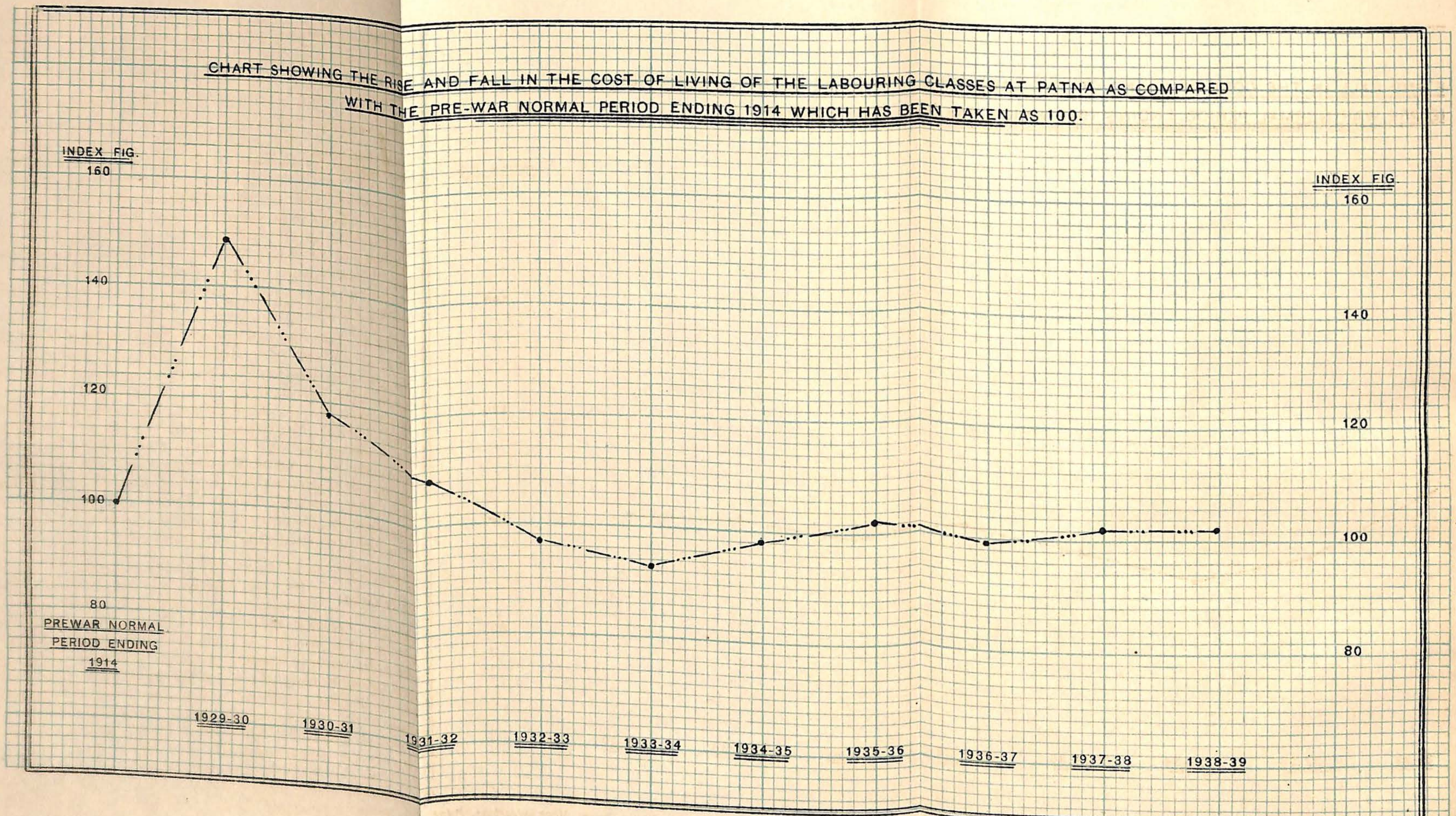
30 students and 40 artisan boys received training in different sections of the Silk Institute at Nathnagar. Of the former only 16 completed their course of training successfully. 6 of these carried on the industry in which they were trained and three secured service. In January 1939 a fresh batch of 25 students were selected out of 205 applicants and were admitted for training. The gross expenditure on this Institute decreased from Rs. 31,677 to Rs. 29,678 and the receipts on account of sale of silk both in India and foreign countries amounted to Rs. 16,155 as against Rs. 16,894 in the previous year. Although the gross expenditure on the Institute decreased from Rs. 31,677 to Rs. 29,678, the net cost of maintaining the institute increased from Rs. 12,382 to Rs. 14,989.

The Wool Weaving Institute at Gaya continued to train young men in the wool weaving industry. Out of 17 students admitted 14 completed their course of training and excepting one all passed the examination held during the year. A fresh batch of 18 students were admitted in January 1939. These students and those of the previous year produced blankets and other woollen goods of the total value of Rs. 3,218 in the course of their prescribed exercises in practical training.

The Half-time Weaving School, Bihar continued to impart industrial training side by side with the general education. The net cost of maintaining this institution was Rs. 3,280, against Rs. 3,072 in the previous year.

The technical schools at Jamalpur and Jamshedpur trained a number of students during the year under review. In the Jamalpur Technical School there were 964 applicants for admission of whom 304 were Biharis. Of these only 28 candidates were selected for admission, including 5 Biharis. The total number of Apprentice Mechanics in this school was 104, of whom 24 belonged to this province. At the Jamshedpur Technical Night School 408 students applied for admission of whom 293 were admitted. The total strength of the classes on the 31st March 1939 was 394 as against 398 in the previous year. 199 students appeared for the final examination and 158 were successful.

A number of scholarships were awarded for the training of students outside the province in subjects for which good facilities do not exist in the province. 13 scholarships varying from Rs. 12



Drawn & Zincographed in the Bihar Survey Office Gulzarbagh, Patna.

variation at Patna. Ranchi continued to be the cheapest centre for a workman to live in, while Jamshedpur continued to be the dearest.

Employment Bureau. The Employment Bureau recorded another year of satisfactory progress. It registered the names of 976 candidates possessing different qualifications during the year, making a total of 2,624 candidates registered up to the 31st March 1939. It secured appointments or apprenticeships for 181 persons, making a total of 525 persons provided for up to the 31st March 1939. The Bureau also gave wide publicity to 625 vacancies occurring in the various Government and quasi-Government departments.

Industrial Survey. With the object of encouraging the development of mineral, metallurgical and chemical industries, an intensive survey of the mineral resources of the province from the industrial and commercial point of view was started by the Provincial Government in March 1939, under the supervision of Dr. V. S. Dubey of the Benares Hindu University. It is hoped that this important work will be taken over by the Geological Survey of India who have better facilities for the purpose.

Industrial Planning. With a view to work out the plans for the industrial development of the province special committees were set up by Government to investigate the prospects of different industries. The reports of the Mechanical and the Chemical Industries Committees have since been received, and that of the Coal Industry Re-organisation Committee, which is considering the question of utilisation of the by-products of coal, is expected shortly.

The Mechanical Industries Committee in its report recommended that Bihar is undisputably the most suitable province in India for the establishment of all major Mechanical and Electrical Industries on a large scale. The province contains all the necessary natural resources namely, Iron ore, Coal, Limestone, Dolomite, Refractories, Copper, Lac Aluminium, Mica, etc. for the establishment of Mechanical Industries. The Committee recommended to start certain group of industries, as far as possible, in close proximity to one another. It proposed the establishment of the following Industrial Units at present :—

1. National Engineering Workshop.
2. Structural Workshop.

3. Sheet Metal Products Company.
4. Tool Steel Products Company.
5. Bolts and Nuts Factory.
6. Metal Products Company.
7. Metallic Lamp Manufacturing Company.
8. Umbrella Fitting Manufacturing Company.
9. Electrical Product Manufacturing Company.
10. Wire and Cable Company.
11. Electrical Communication Apparatus Manufacturing Company.

It was estimated that the initial investment for all the industrial units would come approximately to about 6½ crores of rupees and the number of men expected to be employed directly would be about 33,000. It was suggested that all the industries should be financed and controlled by the State but managed by private firms of national repute on the lines of State-owned Company-managed Railways.

The Chemical Industries Committee recommended that as a first instalment of industrial planning Government should make special efforts for the establishment of the following major chemical industries in Bihar which would involve a capital of Rs. 1.25 crores :—

1. Low Temperature Coal Carbonisation.
2. Manufacture of fertilisers by nitrogen fixation.

The Committee also recommended that Government should help in different ways the establishment of the following basic industries on a provincial scale only :—

1. Sulphuric acid in conjunction with Low Temperature carbonisation.
2. Alkali industry.
3. Glass and ceramics.
4. Pulp, paper and card-board.
5. Bone crushing and superphosphates.

APPENDIX I.

General Abstract of Revenue and Receipts.

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES EXCEPT ACCOUNTS.]

Major Heads.	Budget Estimate, 1940-41.	Revised Estimate, 1939-40.	Budget Estimate, 1939-40.	Accounts, 1938-39.
	TRS.	TRS.	TRS	Rs.
A—PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUES—				
I.—Customs	18,76	16,08	14,00	17,12,474
IV.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation tax.	41,80	31,60	36,10	15,00,000
V.—Salt	..	..	..	6,100
VII.—Land Revenue ..	1,30,00	1,30,00	1,31,50	1,31,51,956
VIII.—Provincial Excise ..	1,01,01	1,07,51	1,03,50	1,19,72,428
IX.—Stamps	1,02,32	1,02,26	1,05,00	1,04,63,876
X.—Forest	7,15	7,41	7,18	7,73,314
XI.—Registration	14,04	14,04	12,40	12,47,343
XII.—Receipts under Motor Vehicles Acts.	31	31	28	30,228
XIII.—Other taxes and duties ..	4,57	2,49	86	1,06,668
C—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS—				
XVII.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept.(a).	18,80	18,31	17,26	16,53,837
XVIII.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which no capital accounts are kept.	99	98	1,02	87,622
E—DEBT SERVICES—				
XX.—Interest	17,34	16,86	17,57	17,79,637
F—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION—				
XXI.—Administration of Justice ..	4,86	4,82	4,56	3,88,405
XXII.—Jails and Convict Settlements.	5,07	5,58	5,58	3,12,638
XXIII.—Police	10,23	10,85	12,08	10,51,328
XXVI.—Education	7,22	7,28	6,79	6,91,119
XXVII.—Medical	3,13	2,99	3,05	2,75,011
XXVIII.—Public Health	1,67	1,39	1,59	1,41,102
XXIX.—Agriculture	2,46	4,04	3,90	4,18,247
XXX.—Veterinary	2,10	1,94	1,77	1,98,182
XXXI.—Co-operation	43	63	79	1,44,888
XXXII.—Industries	21,20	20,97	18,71	19,00,799
XXXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments	1,48	1,48	1,46	1,51,808

(a) The net Irrigation receipts after deducting "Working Expenses" (which includes the irrigation *pro rata* share of the common establishment of the Public Works Department) are shown here.

APPENDIX I—*contd.*

General Abstract of Revenue and Receipts.

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES EXCEPT ACCOUNTS.]

Major Heads.	Budget Estimate, 1940-41.	Revised Estimate, 1939-40.	Budget Estimate, 1939-40.	Accounts, 1938-39.
	TRS.	TRS.	TRS.	RS.
H—CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS—				
XXXIX.—Civil Works	18,08	16,08	19,70	9,88,490
XL.—Receipts from Electric Schemes.	—3	—2	..	..
J—MISCELLANEOUS—				
XLIII.—Transfers from Bihar Famine Relief Fund.	..	..	..	..
XLIV.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	2,16	2,29	2,10	2,07,690
XLV.—Stationery and Printing ..	2,29	2,28	2,39	2,32,931
XLVI.—Miscellaneous	9,15	8,63	7,12	7,78,734
L—CONTRIBUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.				
L.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	16	16	16	16,174
M—EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS—				
LI.—Extraordinary Receipts ..	1,33	6,37	..	..
TOTAL REVENUE ..	5,50,08	5,45,61	5,38,42	5,23,83,029
N—Public debt	40,00	35,00	30,00	32,00,000
O—Unfunded debt	27,02	26,71	26,10	26,03,394
P.—Deposits and Advances ..	5,84,23	5,98,71	6,08,95	6,15,91,423
R—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government.	15,75	12,66	19,33	11,85,295
S—Remittance	1,32,69	1,37,45	1,42,22	1,22,56,842
TOTAL—RECEIPTS OTHER THAN REVENUE.	7,99,69	8,10,53	8,26,60	8,08,36,954
TOTAL RECEIPTS ..	13,49,77	13,56,14	13,65,02	13,32,19,983
Opening balance	56,40	66,14	59,76	64,22,197
GRAND TOTAL ..	14,06,17	14,22,28	14,24,78	13,96,42,180

APPENDIX I—*contd.*

General Abstract of Expenditure.

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES.]

Major Heads.	Budget Estimate, 1940-41.	Revised Estimate, 1939-40.	Budget Estimate, 1939-40.	Accounts, 1938-39.
	TRS.	TRS.	TRS.	TRS.
A—DIRECT DEMANDS ON THE REVENUE—				
4.—Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax.	63	55	25	13
5.—Salt	..	..	..	..
7.—Land Revenue	10,66	10,49	10,18	10,89
8.—Provincial Excise	12,15	13,22	12,85	12,98
9.—Stamps	2,07	2,06	2,08	2,11
10.—Forest	5,87	6,11	6,35	5,96
11.—Registration	6,03	5,98	5,86	5,64
12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts	30	30	28	30
13.—Other Taxes and Duties	6	3	..	9
C—REVENUE ACCOUNT OF IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS—				
17.—Interest on Works for which capital accounts are kept.	11,50	11,50	11,50	11,50
18.—Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.	7,20	4,23	7,05	3,21
19.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works within the Revenue Account.	..	..	..	..
E—DEBT SERVICES—				
22.—Interest on Debt and other obligations ..	6,35	6,25	6,24	5,98
23.—Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.	..	..	..	..
F—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION—				
25.—General Administration	73,87	82,41	76,03	69,93
27.—Administration of Justice	37,53	36,62	37,08	27,19
28.—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	19,63	19,05	18,95	16,36
29.—Police	80,31	82,86	79,56	79,56
36.—Scientific Departments	27	27	28	37
37.—Education	78,19	77,27	78,58	70,74
38.—Medical	26,70	25,27	25,73	23,02
39.—Public Health	15,44	13,07	14,22	12,06
40.—Agriculture	15,11	11,29	10,84	9,56
41.—Veterinary	4,40	4,33	4,34	4,58
42.—Co-operation	7,00	7,19	4,55	4,94
43.—Industries	11,30	11,06	11,34	10,81
44.—Aviation	1	1	..	1
47.—Miscellaneous Departments	1,66	1,92	1,48	1,46
H—CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS—				
50.—Civil Works	47,08	44,61	46,67	38,63
HH—CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS CHARGED TO REVENUE—				
53.—Capital outlay on Electric Schemes met out of Revenue.	84	2,48	2,44	..
J—MISCELLANEOUS—				
54.—Famine	75	1,15	75	2,15
55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	44,95	44,03	40,59	41,06
56.—Stationery and Printing	7,88	8,21	7,57	7,49
57.—Miscellaneous	6,12	6,81	10,40	1,71
JJ—MISCELLANEOUS—CAPITAL ACCOUNT CHARGED TO REVENUE—				
55A.—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary Revenues.	3,04	2,56	3,63	2,26
L—CONTRIBUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS—				
62.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX I—*concld.*

General Abstract of Expenditure—*concld.*

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES.]

Major Heads.	Budget Estimate, 1940-41.	Revised Estimate, 1939-40.	Budget Estimate, 1939-40.	Accounts, 1938-39.
	TRS.	TRS.	TRS.	TRS.
M—EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS—				
63.—Extraordinary charges	1,44	6,46	..	..
TOTAL—EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE	5,46,34	5,49,75	5,37,67	4,92,68
C.C.—CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE—				
68.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works outside the Revenue Account.	..	..	..	..
H.H.—CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE—				
81.—Capital Account of Civil works outside the Revenue Account.	1,29	75	2,39	2,43
J.J.—MISCELLANEOUS CAPITAL ACCOUNT NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE—				
82.—Capital Account of Other Provincial works outside the Revenue Account.	..	..	..	..
83.—Payments of Commuted value of Pensions	—1,40	—1,36	—1,36	—1,32
85.—Payments to retrenched personnel ..	—2	—3	—4	5
TOTAL—EXPENDITURE NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE.	—13	—64	99	106
N—Public Debt	40,00	35,00	30,00	32,00
O—Unfunded debt	20,41	21,61	20,13	21,22
P—Deposits and Advances	5,76,94	6,05,19	6,14,63	6,46,30
R—Loans and advances by the Provincial Government.	8,41	18,94	11,53	14,38
S—Remittances	1,32,00	1,36,03	1,40,32	1,22,64
TOTAL—DEBT DEPOSIT, ETC., HEADS ..	7,77,76	8,16,77	8,16,61	8,36,54
Schemes under consideration not ready ..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL—EXPENDITURE ..	13,23,97	13,65,88	13,55,27	13,30,28
Closing balance	82,20	56,40	69,51	66,14
GRAND TOTAL	14,06,17	14,22,28	14,24,78	13,96,42

APPENDIX II.

List of resolutions adopted during the year 1938-39.

(i) LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

1. This Assembly recommends to Government to take necessary steps to organise a National Militia for this province on the line of the I. T. F. and to maintain a duly trained volunteer corps as a reserve force ready for mobilisation at any time of emergency and also to make adequate provision for military training in Schools and Colleges and to establish a separate military school.

2. This Assembly recommends to Government that they may be pleased to take steps for enabling the Singhbhum district board to have a non-official Chairman, with effect from the next term.

3. This Assembly recommends to the Government of Bihar that the opinion of this Assembly be communicated to His Majesty's Government of Great Britain that it is politically and morally impossible for the people and the Government of this Province to tolerate the imposition of the scheme of Federation as laid down in the Government of India Act, 1935, and that this Assembly hopes that the Government of Great Britain will respect the wishes of the people of India and immediately devise means, even for transitional purposes, to set up a Central Government free from the objectionable features of the Federal scheme of the Government of India Act to be evolved in consultation with the responsible provincial Governments and national leaders.

4. This Assembly recommends to the Government of Bihar to communicate to the proper authorities that in the opinion of this Assembly the conferring of any titles of honour or titular distinction on any person in the Province by His Majesty or the Governor-General be discontinued.

5. This Assembly do resolve that it is desirable that the following matters, being matters enumerated in the Provincial Legislative List, should be regulated in this Province by an Act of the Federal Legislature, namely:—

(1) statistics of employment, and

(2) offences against, and the jurisdiction and powers of court with respect to, the said Act of the Federal Legislature.

6. This Assembly recommends to Government that they be pleased to appoint a Standing Committee of both Houses in the proportion of eight and four of the members of the Assembly and Council respectively to advise Government from time to time on matters connected with the electric grid scheme and they be pleased further to appoint such members of Government as may be necessary to be ex-officio members of the Committee.

7. This Assembly do resolve that it is desirable that—

(1) trade and commerce within the province in drugs, biological products and medicines,

(2) the production, supply and distribution of drugs, biological products and medicines,

(3) the adulteration of drugs, biological products and medicines,

(4) fees in respect of the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (3),

(5) inquiries and statistics for the purpose of the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (4),

(6) offences against laws with respect to the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (5), and

(7) jurisdiction and powers of courts with respect to the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (6) which are among the matters enumerated in the Provincial Legislative List, should be regulated in this province by an Act of the Federal Legislature.

8. This Assembly recommends to Government to issue a statement at an early date explaining the steps that they propose to take regarding the removal of untouchability of the scheduled castes.

9. This Assembly recommends to Government to convey to the proper authorities the opinion of this House that an impartial tribunal should immediately be appointed to enquire into the causes of the train disaster on the East Indian Railway between the Hazaribagh Road and Chachaki stations on the 12th January, 1939, which has resulted in heavy loss of lives and properties with a view to avoid such accidents in future.

The Assembly further expresses its heart-felt sympathy with the families of the dead and the wounded involved in the said disaster.

(ii) LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1. This Council recommends to Government the regulation of the following matters being enumerated in the Provincial Legislative List by an Act of the Federal Legislature, namely:—

(*i*) Statistics of employment, and

(*ii*) Offences against, and powers of courts with respect to, the said Act of the Federal Legislature.

2. This Council recommends to Government the regulation of the following matters being enumerated in the Provincial Legislative List by an Act of the Federal Legislature, namely:—

(1) trade and commerce within the province in drugs, biological products and medicines;

(2) the production, supply and distribution of drugs, biological products and medicines;

(3) the adulteration of drugs, biological products and medicines;

(4) fees in respect of the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (3);

(5) inquiries and statistics for the purpose of the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (4);

(6) offences against laws with respect to the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (5); and

(7) jurisdiction and powers of courts with respect to the matters mentioned in clauses (1) to (6).

APPENDIX III.

Principal Acts passed by the Bihar Legislature, 1938-39.

Title of Act.	Objects.
1. The Bengal Troops Transport and Travellers' Assistance Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1938 (Bihar Act I of 1938).	To abolish the power of impressment of transport for civil officers and private travellers when journeying in the mufassils.
2. The Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1938 (Bihar Act II of 1938).	To introduce important amendments in the existing law, the most important of which provides for the reduction of the rents enhanced during certain period and the relaxation of the transfer fee.
3. The Bihar Money-lenders Act, 1938 (Bihar Act III of 1938).	To relieve indebtedness in the province and to regulate the business of money-lending by requiring the registration of money-lenders and restricting the maximum rates of interest which can be charged on loans. Special provision is made for the exemption from sale of a certain portion of the land of an agricultural debtor in execution of a decree for repayment of a loan.
4. The Bihar Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1938 (Bihar Act IV of 1938).	To exempt from stamp duty documents of divorce made according to Muhammadan Law.
5. The Bihar Money-lenders (Amendment and Application to Pending Suits and Proceedings) Act, 1938 (Bihar Act V of 1938).	To remove certain doubts which had arisen as to the applicability of the Bihar Money-lenders Act, 1938 (item no. 3) to suits and proceedings pending on the date on which the latter Act came into force.
6. The Bihar Prohibition Act, 1938 (Bihar Act VI of 1938).	To enforce what is practically total prohibition of alcoholic liquor in Bihar. Exemptions are made in the case of liquor required for religious purposes (mainly for the Christian churches) and liquor in possession of persons travelling from and going to an area in which the Act is not in force through an area in which it is in force, if the liquor is intended for the use of such persons. The Act also confers powers to grant exemptions in the case of spirits and drugs required for medicinal, scientific or industrial purposes.

Title of Act.	Objects.
7. The Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1938 (Bihar Act VII of 1938).	Until the passing of the Government of India Act, 1935, agricultural incomes could not be made liable to the payment of income-tax. That Act conferred on Provincial Governments the power to levy income-tax on agricultural income. The Bihar Act, which is the first of its kind, levies a graduated income-tax on incomes exceeding Rs. 5,000 derived from agriculture, subject to certain exemptions.
8. The Bihar Legislature (Members' Salaries and Allowances) Act, 1938 (Bihar Act VIII of 1938).	To fix the salaries of members of the Provincial Legislature at Rs. 75 each per month and to provide for the payment of travelling allowances to such members.
9. The Bihar Restoration of Bakasht Lands and Reduction of Arrears of Rent Act, 1938 (Bihar Act IX of 1938).	To restore the lands of the *raiyats* sold for non-payment of arrears of rent since the year 1929, by making provision for liquidation of arrears of rent and easy realisation of the reduced arrears.
10. The Champaran Agrarian (Amendment) Act, 1938 (Bihar Act X of 1938).	To cancel all enhancement of the rents of certain lands which were made in consideration of the release of the tenants from the obligation to grow indigo for the landlords.
11. The Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1938 (Bihar Act XI of 1938).	To effect extensive and important amendments in the Bihar Tenancy Act, 1885, which has regulated the rights and duties of tenants and landlords of agricultural lands for the last fifty years. The more important amendments, which are generally in favour of the tenants, relate to the removal of restrictions on the transfer of his land by a tenant. the abolition of fees payable on such a transfer, the extensive enjoyment by a tenant of the trees growing on the land and the fruits, the prevention of the objection of a tenant from his land except in certain special cases, and the abatement of the rent of lands which have suffered by diluvion.
12. The Bihar General Clauses (Amendment) Act, 1939 (Bihar Act I of 1939).	To repeal any Bihar Act making any textual amendment in any Bihar Act, or Bihar and Orissa Act or Bengal Act which shall not, unless a different intention appears, affect the continuance of the amendment made by the repealed Act and in operation at the time of its repeal.

Title of Act.	Objects.
13. The Cess (Bihar Amendment) Act, 1939 (Bihar Act II of 1939).	To make certain textual amendments in the Cess Act, 1880 (Bengal Act IX of 1880), in its application to the Province of Bihar. This reduces the rate of interest on arrears of cess to be paid direct by proprietors or tenure-holders to Government or by rent-free tenure-holders to proprietors.
14. The Bihar (Bihar and Orissa Mica) Repealing Bill, 1939 (Bihar Act III of 1939).	To repeal the Bihar and Orissa Mica Act, 1930 (Bihar and Orissa Act I of 1930), so far as it applies to the province of Bihar.
15. The Bihar (Bihar and Orissa Public Safety) Repealing Act, 1939 (Bihar Act IV of 1939).	To repeal the Bihar and Orissa Public Safety Act, 1933 (Bihar and Orissa Act I of 1933) and the Bihar and Orissa Public Safety (Extending and Amending) Act, 1936 (Bihar and Orissa Act II of 1936), so far as they apply to the province of Bihar.
16. The Bihar Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1939 (Bihar Act V of 1939).	To make certain amendments in the Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, the most important of which is the insertion of two new sections in the latter Act—one providing for the payment of the agricultural income-tax of a deceased person by his representative and the other prescribing the mode of service of notices issued under the Act.
17. The Bihar Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1939 (Act VI of 1939).	To correct mistakes in the numbering of the sections of the Bihar Prohibition Act, 1938, which are mentioned in the Schedule to the Act.

APPENDIX IV.

A.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at the opening of the Co-operative Federation Congress held at Patna on the 6th April 1938.

B.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at the Annual Session of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce at Patna on the 12th April 1938.

C.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at Police Parade at Hazaribagh on the 25th January 1939.

D.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at a Garden Party held at Government House, Patna, on the 4th February 1939, to meet the Hon'ble Mrs. Copland-Griffiths, Lady Superintendent-in-Chief, St. John Ambulance Brigades overseas.

E.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at the Annual meeting of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce held at Patna on the 26th February 1939.

A.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at the opening of the Co-operative Federation Congress held at Patna on the 6th April 1938.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There are many subjects of which I have little knowledge and Co-operative Credit is one of them. Though I have held numerous posts during my period of service in this province, I have never had to deal with any of the problems connected with the movement and have never had occasion to study them. I have tried to become better acquainted with the problems that have confronted us during recent months, but I must admit finding them very difficult and complicated. I have come here today therefore as a pupil rather than as a teacher as I cannot claim that anything which I say will help in the solution of our difficulties.

Coming here as a pupil, I feel I have spent a very useful morning listening to the speeches of Dr. Sinha, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, and the very illuminating address of the Hon'ble Mr. Pantalu. We are all most grateful to him for putting himself to the trouble and inconvenience of a visit to Patna at this season of the year, and I feel sure that his suggestions will prove of the greatest help to us.

Dr. Sinha has reminded us of the history of the movement in this province; he has proved conclusively that Government have been responsible for the movement in the past, that enthusiastic and optimistic Registrars such as my friend Mr. Abdy Collins encouraged, or to quote Dr. Sinha, pestered residents in the province to invest their money in the province to invest their money in this department and that in other ways Government led investors to believe that they would always support the movement. Possibly it may seem to some here today that Mr. Collins and others who

were responsible for the department of Co-operative Credit in its early days were unduly optimistic, but I would recall the fact that Mr. Collins was Registrar and issued the circulars which have been quoted as long ago as 1913 or 1914, that is to say before the Great War. At that time everything looked clear ahead, there were no clouds visible, not even of the size of a man's hand, and it was justifiable to look forward in a spirit of enthusiastic optimism. Then came the 4th August 1914 and the storm broke. The war did not, it is true, affect India as much as European countries, but India was affected by the economic cataclysms which have taken place since 1918, the boom in prices that took place immediately after the war and the even more disastrous slump which occurred in 1930. Here in Bihar we had the further disaster of the earthquake. I do not wish to lay too much stress on these disasters, but I think it is only fair to those who were directing the movement in the early days to mention them.

However the main point which Dr. Sinha has made was that Government were responsible for the development of the movement; Government must therefore be responsible for its rehabilitation. With that view I entirely agree; with that view my Ministry also agree and the Hon'ble Dr. Mahmud will later this morning explain to you as far as practicable the steps which he proposes to take to re-establish public confidence in the movement. Some of the difficult problems, in particular the financial problem, which arise cannot be said to be wholly solved and it is not possible for the Hon'ble Minister to put before you a cut and dried scheme. Any scheme, if it is to be successful, must be based on experience and fact, and in some matters, as far as I understand the problem, we do not yet quite know how we stand. However I am confident, and I think that after you have heard Dr. Mahmud's speech, you will share my confidence, that my Government are going to adopt with as little delay as possible a practical policy for the rehabilitation of the movement.

That policy will in all probability follow in many respects the advice given us today by the Hon'ble Mr. Pantalu.

I do not propose to discuss in detail the Hon'ble Mr. Pantalu's admirable lecture. He has at the beginning started in a spirit of optimism and he has closed his address with an exhortation asking us to dismiss all pessimism from our minds, and I am very glad that he has done so, for if we are pessimistic and frightened by the magnitude of the problem, we may drift into the attitude that nothing can be done. I may also say that I fully agree with his observation that "the failure of the co-operative movement to achieve its aim in the past was as much due to the absence of co-operative virtues among its votaries as to the presence of external factors which obstruct the advance of the movement and which can be removed only by courageous and well-planned State action". He has also quoted with approval a statement recently made by my Prime Minister that we must not merely keep the movement alive but also make it more beautiful and convert it into an instrument for making the life of the village community fuller in every way. With that too I fully agree.

If we tackle the problem before us in a spirit of optimism, we shall, I feel sure, achieve some success. We must of course also in dealing with the problem follow strictly sound rules of banking and finance. As Mr. Pantalu has pointed out, our past sins include not merely non-observance of moral precepts of co-operation but also the violation of the material rules of the business code. Workers in the movement whether they are officials or non-officials, however well trained they may be in the principles of co-operation cannot be expected to be banking or financial experts. We must have some experts to guide them in the right path and I would like at this stage to express my thanks to the Reserve Bank of India and its

Governor, Sir James Taylor, for lending us the services of Mr. Punjabi to help us in dealing with the question. We must have a good audit staff, though Mr. Pantalu has shown that to acquire such a staff is none too easy. But as Mr. Punjabi has said in a report which I have seen, a silver lining can only appear in the dark clouds which are ahead of us when the golden rules of banking are followed.

I have already spoken too long for I know you must all be anxious to hear what the Hon'ble Minister is going to say. If merely by my presence here today I have made even a small contribution to the rehabilitation of this valuable movement in Bihar, I am glad. I still have faith in the movement and feel that we shall be able with so many willing helpers to set it on a sound basis.

B.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at the Annual Session of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce at Patna on the 12th April 1938.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

I must start by thanking you, Sir, and the Members of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce for asking me for the second time to attend the opening function of the Annual Session of the Chamber. During the year that has elapsed since I was last here, much has happened and this year 1937, which witnessed the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, will be regarded by the historian of the future as one of great interest and importance. There have been times of strain and crisis, and I must confess that during this last year I have had very different feelings from time to time, at times optimistic, at times very much the reverse. When I came here last year, I expressed the hope that the Chamber and the individual members thereof would do all they could to develop the industries of Bihar. I have tried during the year to make myself better acquainted with the industries of Bihar. I have visited the coalfields of Jharia and the Mica mines of Kodarma. I have visited the Peninsular Tobacco Company's factory at Monghyr and the Railway Workshops at Jamalpur. At your invitation, Sir, I opened the Cotton Mill which you have started at Gaya, and more recently I have visited that rising industrial centre of Dalmianagar. These visits showed to me conclusively that much progress is being made in developing the natural resources of the province. Far-seeing capitalists which the help of highly skilled engineers are bringing into the province the most up-to-date and efficient machinery for the development of its natural resources. The mere setting up of these new factories must have given employment to thousands, and when they are in full working order, they will give permanent employment to a very large number of persons. In the old days, as a visit to the Patna Museum will show, the Bihari was a very highly skilled craftsman! I do not think he has lost his skill and I feel sure that whatever manufacture is undertaken, whether it be of sugar, cement, paper, tobacco or cotton, skilled workers will easily be obtainable competent to run the intricate machines which must now be used in the manufacture of these articles. I congratulate all those connected with these new industries and wish them all success.

We have certainly made a good start and I hope or indeed I should say, I feel confident that we shall make good progress. You, Sir, have mentioned certain schemes which may be taken up in the near future, such as the manufacture of aluminium and glass. You have referred also to the big scheme which my Ministry have under consideration for supplying electric power to a large area in the province. That scheme has my full sympathy and support, for I recognise that the supply of cheap

electric power will be a great stimulus to the industrial development of the province. Some time must inevitably elapse before that scheme is in full working order; before entering on a scheme of this magnitude it is necessary to examine it carefully in all its aspects. It is suggested sometimes that agricultural produce of the province could be materially increased if we had a network of tube wells, but it must be remembered that it is of little help if the cultivator doubles or trebles his crop but cannot find a market for the produce of his fields. I do not wish to appear to be in any way opposed to the system of tube wells and I merely make this comment to show how many points have to be taken into consideration when dealing with a scheme of this kind. Possibly in the past Government have been over cautious; it will be even more disastrous in the future if it is over hasty or rash.

Much of your speech, Sir, has been devoted to subjects which are not the primary concern of the provincial Government, but which I recognise affect members of this Chamber very closely. But even though many of the financial proposals to which you refer do not directly concern my Government, my Government will, I know, always be ready to press on the Government of India any reasonable criticism of their proposals which you may put forward. I gather from this morning's paper that you will have full opportunity of putting forward your views of the Income-tax Bill before it becomes law.

Turning to matters nearer home, you have rightly referred to the Sugar Industry. The position is I think considerably more satisfactory now than it was a year ago; last year it was uncertain whether it would be possible for the mills to crush all the cane which the *raiyats* had produced and in some districts a small percentage remained uncrushed. This year I understand most of the cane has already been crushed and the *raiyats* have received a fair price for their cane. The legislation recently passed by the Governments of Bihar and the United Provinces will I trust enable Government in future to control the production of cane, and I should like at this stage to express my appreciation of the very valuable work done in connection with this Bill by Dr. Mahmud, the Minister in charge, and by the officers who helped him in this work, in particular Mr. Lall, the Secretary in the Development Department. I do not myself like interference by Government in an industry, but if they do seek to control it in any way, the control must be effective, and I trust that the powers which have now been obtained will make the control effective, will enable Government to protect the *raiyat* from exploitation and to help the mills and the Sugar Syndicate. You have raised an important point when you refer to the fact that unduly heavy taxation of the industry may drive it out of Bihar. That is a risk which I have always had in mind, and which I have frequently emphasised to my Government. I hope too that the Power Alcohol Committee will be able to put forward some practicable proposals for manufacturing a by-product out of sugarcane, but the problem is not an easy one and requires very careful examination.

You have referred also to the fact that my Government have appointed a Labour Committee under the Chairmanship of that distinguished citizen of Bihar—Dr. Rajendra Prasad. You have also said that relations between capital and labour in this province are more harmonious and satisfactory than in some other places. This is no doubt generally true, but strikes now are liable to break out without warning just like an epidemic of cholera or small-pox, and at the present time we are not unfortunately entirely free from them. I read with interest and appreciation in to-day's paper the message which the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this portfolio sent to the Committee. I trust that the appointment of this Committee will make

the workers in our industries realise that both their employers and Government are out to help them, that our object is, to quote the Hon'ble Minister's message, " to bring about conditions in which our workers will be fired by ambition to rise higher on the rungs of the ladder by the acquisition of the habit of accurate, hard and persevering work which has made the more prosperous nations in the world great ". They will I hope realise that their interests, their true interests, are not being served by indulging in a strike at the instigation perhaps of some irresponsible agitators, but that they will be better off if they form genuine Trade Unions which can represent their grievances and their difficulties to their employers and to Government.

In conclusion, I must use words very similar to those I used a year ago. We live in difficult times, but in spite of many difficulties which I see ahead, I have not yet lost my spirit of optimism nor my faith in the sturdy common sense of the Bihari. I trust that the members of this Chamber share my optimism and faith; if they do, they will be able to do even more than they have done in recent years for the industrial development of Bihar. Much has been done in recent years, and I congratulate and thank the members of this Chamber for all that they have done for the province.

C.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at Police Parade at Hazaribagh on the 25th January 1939.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT POLICE,

I thought it desirable on this, the occasion of my first official visit to Hazaribagh, to ask the Inspector-General to arrange for this parade which is being held today. Hazaribagh may be regarded in a sense at least as the headquarters of the Bihar Police Force, for it is here that we have the Police Training College, at which young police officers are trained.

The ceremonial parade today has shown me that the police of the Hazaribagh District are very smart and efficient in drill; all here today are smartly turned out and the ceremonial drill which I have just witnessed has been done extremely well. The drill both of the armed police and of the district police compares very favourably with that of regular soldiers of the Indian Army, and great credit is due to all who have taken part in the training of the rank and file.

I must say, however, that I am not surprised to see today's ceremonial parade, carried out so efficiently. Ever since I have been Governor of Bihar, and indeed even before when I held lower posts in this province, I have been greatly impressed by the efficiency and smartness of the Bihar Police. Constables on point duty directing traffic, guards on duty at Government House, or at other places, have always appeared to me to be smart, alert and efficient. Some people may think that smartness at drill is of little importance. That is a very wrong idea, for smartness at drill shows that the discipline of the force is of a high standard, and it is clear that no police force can be really first class unless the discipline is of a very high standard. I am fully satisfied that the discipline in the Bihar Police is of this standard and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the work done by the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Bihar Police, from the Inspector-General downwards, for all that they have done to keep the Bihar Police up to this standard.

A well disciplined police force will carry out the various difficult duties which it has to discharge with efficiency and credit. The primary duty of

a police officer may be said to be the detection and prevention of crime. Detection of crime is no easy task; a visit which I paid a year or two ago to the Police Training College at Hendon in England showed me what careful training an officer charged with the difficult duty of investigating crime must receive; here in Hazaribagh young officers receive some training; possibly it is not as up-to-date as that given at Hendon, but I recognise that the officers of the Bihar Police are doing much to introduce more up-to-date methods. But even though science may help in the detection of crime, there still remains the fundamental fact that here in India an investigating officer cannot achieve satisfactory results unless he has the full confidence of all persons with whom he is brought in contact and from whom he has to make enquiries. My experience of the work of the Police in Bihar has shown that the most successful Sub-Inspector is he who has the confidence of those within his jurisdiction, and I know that there are many such Sub-Inspectors. I would ask all young police officers to do all they can to win the confidence of those with whom they are brought in contact; many police officers have won that confidence and I feel sure all ranks of the Bihar Police Force recognise the importance of this point.

Prevention of crime presents no fewer difficulties, and here in Bihar the police have had a very difficult duty to perform during recent months, when we have unfortunately been confronted with agrarian, communal and labour trouble. In such circumstances the police must preserve a position of complete impartiality; their duty is to maintain the public peace, to prevent any breach of law and order and I am glad to be able on this occasion to pay a tribute to the police of the province for the way in which they have carried out their very difficult duty. All ranks have contributed to this result and I feel sure that in future they will be equally successful, provided there is, as at present, good discipline in the force and provided they realise, as they do, that their duty is to maintain law and order, irrespective of all other considerations.

But a policeman's work does not end here; he is always being called on to help the general public; we all of us recognise the sterling work the police did in Bihar at the time of the Earthquake of 1934; we have frequent instances of good work done by the police when damage to life or property is caused by flood or fire and in each year there are numerous cases in which the police earn rewards by the work which they have done to help those in distress.

In conclusion, let me congratulate the Bihar Police on the sterling work which they have done during the last year; and let me thank both officers and men for their services. I am confident that in future they will carry out their duties with equal efficiency.

D.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at a Garden Party held at Government House, Patna, on the 4th February 1939, to meet the Hon'ble Mrs. Copland-Griffiths, Lady Superintendent-in-Chief, St. John Ambulance Brigades Overseas.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have asked you here today to meet the Hon'ble Mrs. Copland-Griffiths who has come out from England to help us to develop and expand the work of the St. John Ambulance Association. This Association owes its origin to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which dates back to the

First Crusade and to the year 1099 or perhaps even earlier. The object for which this Order was originally founded was the relief of human suffering and throughout its long history that object has never been forgotten, however prominent its military duties may have become. It is no longer necessary for the Knights of St. John to fight in defence of the Christian faith and the relief of human suffering has now become their sole object. To fulfill this object the St. John Ambulance Association and the St. John Ambulance Brigade have been started, and the former has as its specific object the dissemination of knowledge about the preliminary treatment of sick and injured persons and thus to lessen the needless suffering caused by ignorance. The Association and the Brigade have done, as you all do, splendid work in time of war, but their activities in time of peace are no less important. Here in Bihar we may expect to be free from the horrors of war, but even though we may not be exposed to attacks by human enemies, we are exposed to attacks of disease. The death rate in Bihar is terribly high, especially among women and children, and diseases such as malaria, Kala-azar, ankylostomiasis and tuberculosis have in many areas sapped the strength of our population. Diseases such as these are largely due to ignorance. We must dispel that ignorance; we must teach the illiterate people of the province how they can improve their health and that of their children. There is no more suitable organisation for this work than the St. John Ambulance Association and it is a matter of very great satisfaction to me that that Association which at one time was not very flourishing in Bihar has recently made great progress. I am in particular most grateful to Colonel Stott and the Officers of the Medical Services, for the work of the Association could not have been expanded and developed, had it not been for the enthusiastic zeal with which they have taken up the work. Their enthusiasm has been infectious and in nearly all districts of the province we have flourishing centres of activity. It is somewhat invidious to pick out special examples and I would like to pay a special tribute to the work done at the big industrial centres of Jamshedpur and Jharia.

Much remains to be done; we are only touching the fringe of the problem of human suffering in Bihar, but "well begun is half done"; we have made a good start and if we do not allow our enthusiasm to abate, the work of the St. John Ambulance Association in Bihar will be of lasting benefit to the people of the province.

I have already talked for too long. I know you are all anxious to hear the Hon'ble Mrs. Copland-Griffiths and I now ask her to give us the benefit of her advice and experience.

E.—The speech delivered by His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett at the Annual meeting of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce held at Patna on the 26th February 1939.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I thank you most sincerely for inviting me to be present here today. This is the third occasion on which I have attended the Annual Session of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, but I am afraid it will be the last occasion, for, as you know, my days in Bihar are numbered and after a few months I shall have to say goodbye to the province in which I have served for thirty years and to my many friends in different parts of the province. But even though I am leaving Bihar, I shall not be far away and I shall always aim at establishing a close liaison between these two provinces which have so much in common. Already there is liaison, for the measures taken

to deal with the Sugar Industry, which you have mentioned and commended, were taken jointly by the two provinces and the Hon'ble Dr. Mahmud and the Hon'ble Dr. Katju have worked throughout in close co-operation. There are, Sir, as you have indicated many problems still to be solved, in particular the problem of how to enable the cultivator to get a higher yield from this land. It must not be expected that this problem will be solved in a day, agricultural experiments always take time, but I have no doubt that the experts who will be employed both here and in the United Provinces will succeed in devising measures to help the cultivator. I hope too that we shall be able to introduce, as you have suggested, the manufacture of power alcohol, for that will mean that the cultivation of cane can be expanded.

You have referred to various other important industries in the province: lac, coal, cement, steel. I do not propose to discuss in detail the problems which arise in regard to these industries. But I would again emphasize the necessity for co-operating with other provinces; in certain circumstances competition may be useful and as you, Sir, have said, make for efficiency and economy, but there is always a risk of competition leading to a disastrous rate-war. It is most satisfactory that a National Planning Committee is now sitting which will consider the problem of the development of industries for the whole of India and which will be able to tender useful advice as to where specific industries can best be located. I share your appreciation of the action taken by the Hon'ble Dr. Mahmud and the Hon'ble Mr. Giri in this matter; we owe them a debt of gratitude. Here in Bihar we have two important raw materials easily available, coal and iron. Not long ago I visited once again the Tata Iron and Steel Company's Works at Jamshedpur. It is over twenty years since I first visited Jamshedpur and my recent visits showed me what enormous progress has been made in that period, thanks to the farsighted policy of the Directors of the Company. I feel confident that in the next twenty years progress will be even more rapid and that the time will come when Jamshedpur will produce every type of article that can be manufactured from steel, from the railway engine or motor car down to a pin.

I do not venture to discuss the suggestion which you have mentioned for the solution of the vexed problem of the Zamindari and the Tenant; it is a proposal which is being earnestly examined by my Government. You refer also to the problem of labour unrest and to the unfortunate disputes which have recently become unduly frequent between employers and employees. I am glad to note that you, Sir, take on the whole an optimistic view of the position and recognise that here as in other countries this period of turmoil may be the prelude to an era of progress and prosperity for industrial labourers. You rightly admit that there may be faults on both sides and you have made a telling quotation in your speech to illustrate the ideal relations between the master and the servant. I too am optimistic. The labouring classes in this country, though skilled workmen, are often illiterate, but already in Bihar we have made some progress in the Drive against Illiteracy. But what I feel is most needed to prevent strikes and industrial disputes is the formation of Trade Unions which are really representative of the workers. If such Unions are formed they will be in a position to represent the real grievances of the workmen to the employers and in most cases discussion of grievances round a table will lead to a settlement; if it does not, then we must have some system of arbitration. These however are matters which are no doubt engaging the attention of the Labour Enquiry Committee and it is needless for me to say more.

Once again I thank you for asking me here today.

APPENDIX V.

Sources of information available to public.

CHAPTER I.—Political and General Events.

CHAPTER II.—Finance.

Financial statements for Bihar in 1938-39 and the Budget Estimate for 1939-40.

CHAPTER III.—The Legislature.

Proceedings of the Bihar Legislative Council (Volumes III, IV) and Bihar Legislative Assembly (Volume III—Parts 2 to 4, Vol. IV, Parts 1 to 3).

CHAPTER IV.—Local Self-Government.

Resolutions reviewing the reports on the working of the district boards and municipalities in Bihar during 1938-39.

Resolutions on the working of union boards and panchayats in Bihar during the year 1938-39.

CHAPTER V.—Education.

Report on the progress of Education in Bihar for 1938-39.

Bihar Council of Women—Report for the year 1939.

CHAPTER VI.—Public Health and Medical Relief.

Annual Public Health Report of the Province of Bihar for the year 1938 and the Annual Vaccination Report for the year 1938-39.

Annual Report of the Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna, for the year 1938-39.

Annual Report of the European Mental Hospital at Ranchi for the year 1938.

Annual Report on the working of the Ranchi Indian Mental Hospital, Kanke, in Bihar, for the year 1938.

Annual Report on the working of the Radium Institute, Patna, for the year 1938.

Annual Report of the Pasteur Institute, Patna, for the year 1938.

Annual Report on the working of the Itki Sanatorium in Ranchi, in Bihar, for the year 1938.

Annual Returns of the Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bihar for the year 1938.

CHAPTER VII.—Maintenance of the Peace, Administration of Justice and Jails.

Annual Report on the Administration of the Police Department for 1938.

Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice for 1938.

Report on the Administration of Civil Justice for 1938.

Administration Report on Jails in Bihar for 1938.

CHAPTER VIII.—Excise.

Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Province of Bihar for the year 1938-39.

CHAPTER IX.—The Land and the People.

Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar for the year 1938-39.

Report of Wards, Encumbered, Trust and Attached Estates for 1938-39.

Annual Report on the Survey and Major Settlement operations in Bihar for the year 1938.

Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Province of Bihar for the year 1938-39.

CHAPTER X.—Agriculture and Co-operation.

Annual Report of the Agricultural Department for 1938-39.

Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department for 1938-39.

Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bihar for 1938.

Season and Crop Report for 1938-39.

CHAPTER XI.—Commerce and Industry.

Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines for India for 1938.

Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Bihar, 1938.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Boilers Act V of 1923 in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1938-39.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, in the Province of Bihar, for 1938.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Province of Bihar, for the year 1938-39.

Annual Report of the Director of Industries for 1938-39.

GLOSSARY.

VERNACULAR.		ENGLISH.
Ayurvedic	...	Medical science of the Hindus.
Bakrid	...	A Muslim festival.
Bandh	...	Embankment.
Bhadai	...	Autumn crop.
Bhang	...	An intoxicating drug made from the leaves of the hemp plant.
Bigha	...	A varying unit of land measurement, generally about one-third acre.
Choukidar	...	Village watchman.
Dasahra	...	A Hindu festival.
Ganja	...	The hemp plant which is smoked for intoxication.
Ghee	...	Clarified butter.
Gur	...	Raw sugar.
Harijan	...	Literally, creature of God. A term invented by Mr. Gandhi to designate members of the "depressed" Hindu castes.
Hakim	...	A Muslim village doctor.
Kamdar	...	Expert cultivator.
Kala-azar	...	Black fever.
Madrasa	...	School for education in Urdu, Persian and Arabic.
Maktab	...	Elementary village school for education in Urdu.
Pachwai	...	Beer made from grain, usually rice.
Panchayat	...	A committee, a body of arbitrators, originally five in number.
Pathshala	...	Elementary village school where Sanskrit is also taught.
Rabi	...	The spring harvest.
Takavi	...	Agricultural.
Tari	...	Fermented juice of the palm tree (toddy).
Vaidya	...	A doctor.

MEASUREMENTS.

80 tolas	=16 chittaks=1 seer (about 2 lbs. avoirdupois).
40 seers	=1 maund.
1 lakh	=1,00,000.
1 crore	=100 lakhs.

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